Ann Arbor Observer

August 2003

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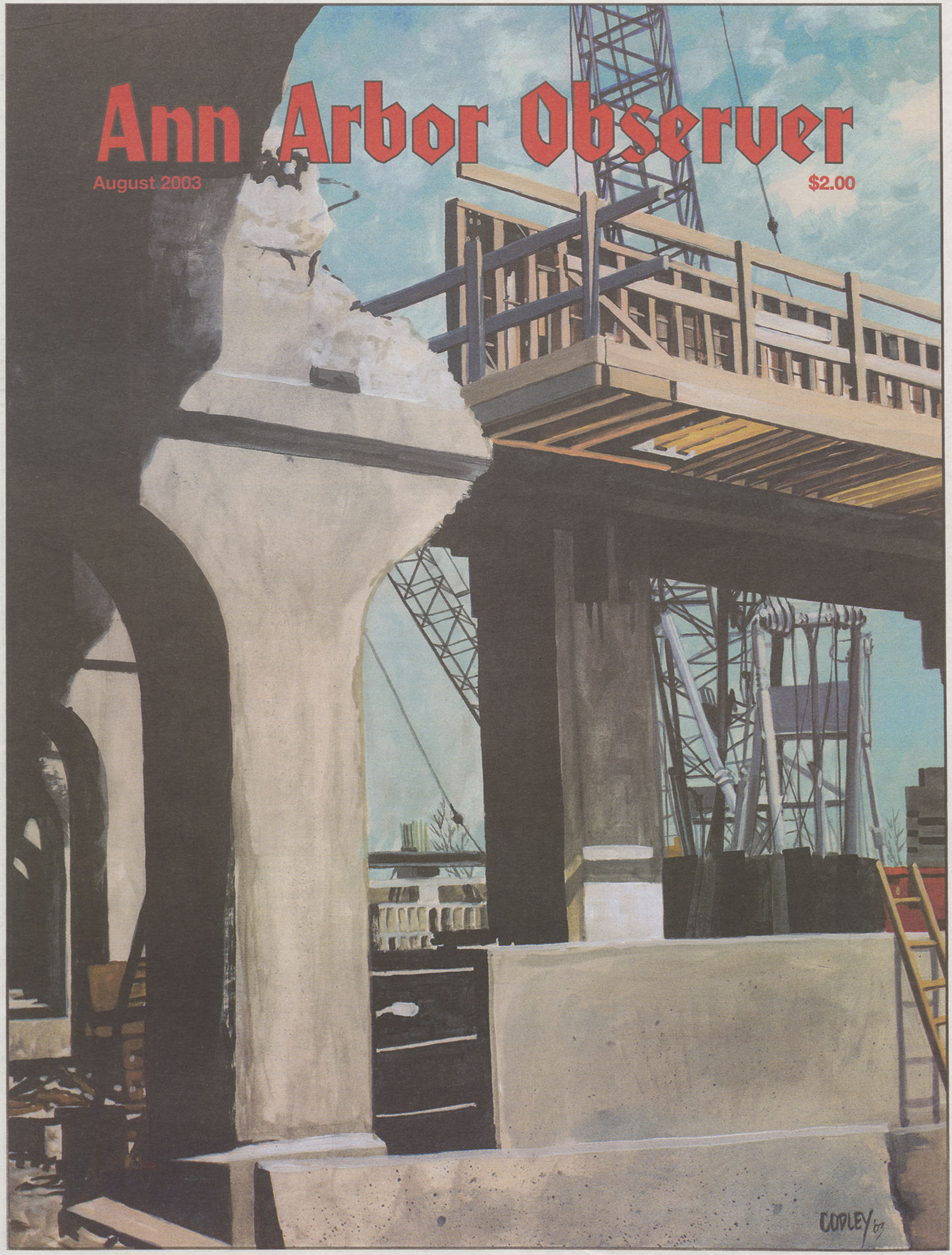

Distinctive Homes from Edward Surovell

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The Vitosha Guest Haus, formerly known as the First Unitarian Universalist Church, has been beautifully renovated throughout. A gracious "Bed and Breakfast" with a distinctive European flair, the four handsome buildings, with concert and gallery space plus a commercial kitchen, provide a versatile forum for corporate retreats, academic seminars, weddings, and receptions. A perimeter wrought-iron fence surrounds graceful conifers, robust perennials, and an exceptional English garden. All of this is just a few blocks from the University of Michigan! 17 bedrooms, 14 full and 2 half baths.
$2,975,000 • Nancy Bishop • (734) 761-3040

Remarkable area...remarkable home for those who desire functional elegance in an estate setting. Silent engineered flooring system, cherry and granite kitchen, and 3 fireplaces. Master suite with all the accoutrements and a study close by. Finished lower level with home theater. On 2.83 acres. Dexter schools. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths.
$1,195,000 • ML# 231060 • Rob Ewing (734) 216-5955

Stately brick traditional in Geddes Glen has the best of finishes from top to bottom! Marble and cherry floors, crown molding, hand-forged wrought iron balustrades and granite counters. First-floor guest suite, walk-out lower level with recreation room, wet bar, wine cellar, bedroom and bath. Resort-style backyard has in-ground pool and hot tub. 6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths.
$1,450,000 • ML# 234519 • Nancy Bishop (734) 761-3040

Exquisite, like new, executive brick ranch home with panoramic views on 1.5-acre lot in Cedar Hills. Highly upgraded throughout with a wealth of lavish amenities including gourmet kitchen, library with built-ins, maple and Italian ceramic tile floors. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths.
$875,000 • ML# 232747 • Candy Mitchell (734) 649-7571

MATTHAEI FARM! Enjoy stunning views of the great valley below from this sharp 3-level contemporary. Top-of-the-line finishes include a designer kitchen with Corian counters and Pennville cabinets. Three fireplaces, 1st floor study with built-ins. Walk-out lower level has a second family room, home office or 5th bedroom, kitchenette, exercise studio and full bath. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths.
$829,000 • ML# 236532 • Nancy Bishop (734) 761-3040

937' of fabulous lake frontage on Sutton Lake. Beautiful gardens, a pond and a cascading brook. Historic elegance awaits you in this exclusive stone home with commanding views. Greek Revival architecture, stone fireplace, and cathedral ceilings.
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Matthei Farm! This dramatic 3-level contemporary designed by Hobbs & Black architects sits on 1 acre of impeccable grounds. 6200 sq. ft. featuring a library, gourmet kitchen, private office, and media room. State-of-the-art everything! 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths.
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4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths.
$795,000 • ML# 235120 • Carolyn Lepard (734) 663-9202

Elegant lakefront estate built with attention to every detail! Panoramic views from the 2-story great room, kitchen and breakfast room, and first-floor master suite. Wraparound deck. Cherry kitchen with Corian countertops and island. Finished walk-out lower level. Fabulous country subdivision. Nestled on 1 acre in Saline. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths.
$997,000 • ML# 233757 • Linda Forster (734) 320-5050

Rare opportunity to live on one of Ann Arbor's most charming streets with the Arboretum in your backyard! 1920's colonial totally renovated from the third floor "treehouse" bedroom to the boldly modern lower level exercise room. Light filled kitchen opens to dining room with fireplace. Sophisticated sunroom, two fireplaces.
3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths.
$799,000 • ML# 237221 • Carolyn Lepard (734) 663-9202

North of the Huron River and on the edge of Barton Hills! Spectacular architect-designed contemporary ranch on 2.89 private and wooded acres. 12' ceilings, hardwood and brick floors, great room, study, granite and oak kitchen, and a terrific screened porch. Each room has a full wall of windows with panoramic views of lush gardens. Finished lower level. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths.
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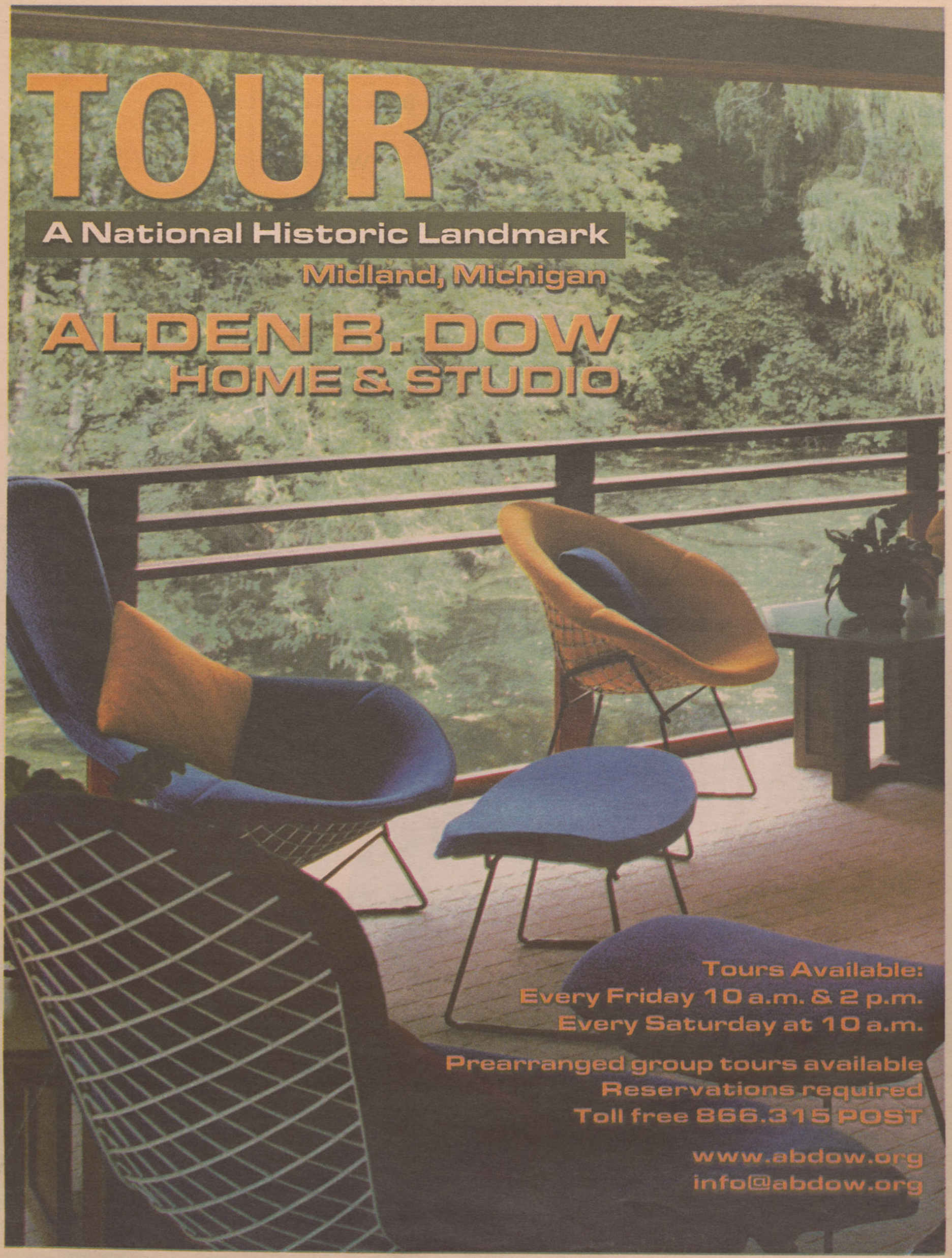
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Ann Arbor Observer

August 2003 vol. 27 • no. 12

Cover: Give My Regards to Broadway. Acrylic painting by John Copley.

features

21 Bridging the Gap ***Yma A. Johnson***
The Family Learning Institute's reading program for low-income students is getting amazing results.

23 Into the Open ***Derek Green***
Martin Contreras and Keith Orr invented a new kind of gay bar—and a bold response to bigotry that's being copied around the country.

31 Breaking Down the Walls ***Susan Todoroff***
At local interfaith congregations, members draw on everything from the Bible to Native American beliefs to blaze new spiritual paths.

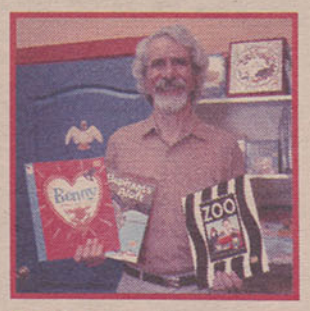
departments

9 Up Front
Michael Betzold, Becky Brown, Yma A. Johnson, Mary Beth Lewis, Kyle Norris, Eve Silberman

11 Inside Ann Arbor
Ken Garber, Deborah Pohrt, Esther Hurwitz, Penny Schreiber, Bill Winters, Kyle Norris, Tim Athan

17 Crime Map

19 Ann Arborites
After Words bookstore owner Steve Kelly ***Eve Silberman***



37 Restaurants
Totoro ***Elizabeth Méricas***
Pelagos ***Margaret Yang***

41 Marketplace Changes
Laura McReynolds, Paul R. Schwankl
The Earle heads uptown • downtown is now Chocolate Central • the Ficheras sell Stucchi's • and more.

91 Back Page
I Spy Contest ***Sally Bjork***
Fake Ad Update
Jay Forstner

what's happening

45 Events
John Hinchey & Laura Bartlett
Daily events in Ann Arbor during August, including reviews of blues singer-songwriter Otis Taylor, Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit at the Purple Rose Theater (at right), folksinger Michael Cooney, the grad student Playground Show at the Robbins Gallery on North Campus, and folk singer-songwriter Annie Capps.

67 Music at Nightspots
John Hinchey

92 Events at a Glance
John Hinchey

advertising sections

70 Personals, Classifieds, & Service Advertisers

85 Real Estate Guide
Home Sales Map ***Kevin Duke***

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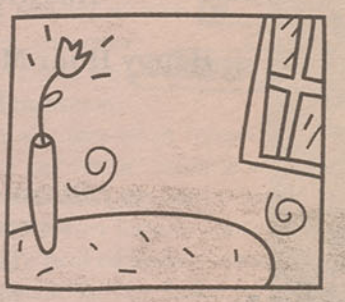

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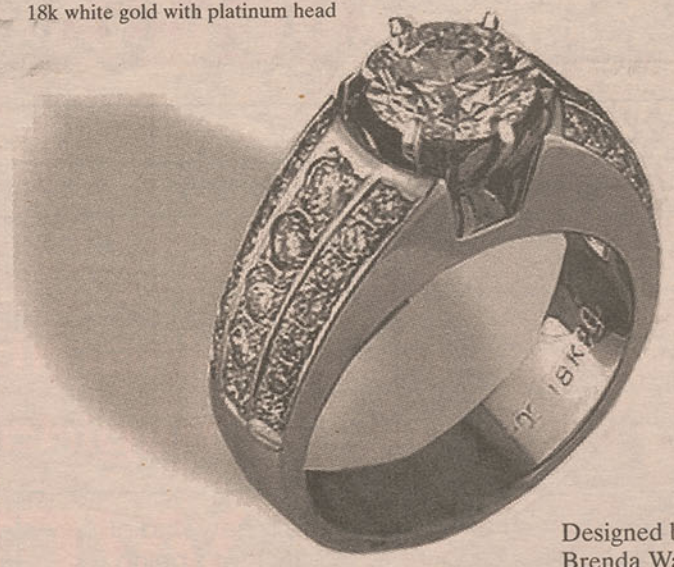

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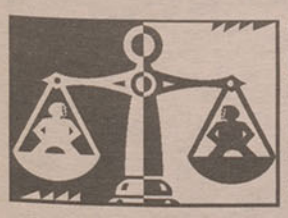
UPFRONT

Campus scam: A tall young man aggressively approached a woman on Liberty Street. Telling her that modeling agencies worked closely with his company to find young new talent, he pressed her to take a business card and call for an interview. With a mixture of curiosity and skepticism, she took the card—and was impressed to see "Wilhelmina" printed at the top. It appeared that she'd just been scouted by one of the most famous modeling agencies in the world.

But her excitement was short lived: looking more closely, she realized that the card read "Wilhelmina Scouting Network"—the agency is just "Wilhelmina." Back at her office, the search engines ignited, turning up stories of scams and lawsuits. This past April, *Dateline NBC* aired an episode revealing that a company called Trans Continental Talent had charged aspiring models nearly $1,000 just to post their pictures on websites supposedly reviewed by agencies. A hidden camera caught scouts-in-training learning how to flatter victims into signing up, regardless of whether they had any potential as models.

Not long before the show aired, Trans Continental Talent changed its name to . . . Wilhelmina Scouting Network.

Women, beware.



Outsiders no more: The Granholm administration means a new deal for Ann Arbor's Democrats in Lansing. Senator Liz Brater and representative Chris Kolb are still in the legislature's minority party, but under a Democratic governor, they're enjoying unfamiliar clout. "I definitely feel more empowered," says Brater, pointing out that Granholm's administration "is more interested in our opinions" than John Engler's was. Both legislators say that Granholm, unlike Engler, is in tune with their pro-environment agenda, and they note that she's set up a bipartisan land use council, on which both serve. Brater, a strong mental health advocate, adds that despite the state's $1.7 billion deficit, Granholm has asked for a slight increase in the mental health budget. While it is still difficult for Democrats to successfully initiate legislation, Kolb predicts that Granholm's veto power will make the Republicans more amenable to compromise. "The trick being a minority is how to get things done," he adds. Having a fellow Democrat as governor "is another card in the deck that helps you do things."

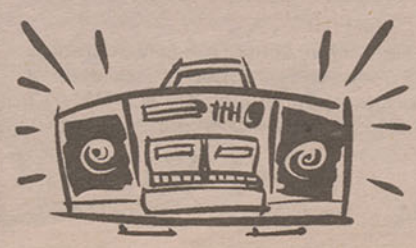
Road reversals: Bagged-up traffic lights will be the first warning that campus-area streets are changing their ways. State, Liberty, North University, and Maynard will all revert to two-way thoroughfares the third week in August. The big switch reflects a change in thinking about traffic—instead of speeding cars through town, the new layout is supposed to make it easier for them to linger. "This is a destination," says Downtown Development Authority boss Susan Pollay. "You want to make it as porous as possible, with lots of exits and entrances." Besides bagging signals, workers will be switching, replacing, covering, and uncovering signs to steer traffic in the right direction. Once the change is in full swing, barricades and possibly a flag operator will be strategically placed to help disoriented drivers cope.

What does it cost? $52—porcelain dinner plate depicting the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library, "framed with Texas wildflowers [and] the United States and Texas flags," produced for the Bush (41) library by Ann Arbor's Classic Collegiate China . . . **$99**—small "Proudly American" Longaberger picnic basket, from local rep Kim Harberts . . . **$9**—Burt's Bees avocado butter hair treatment, from The Step Above . . . **$1.99**—avocado sushi roll, from Sushi.come . . . **$2.75**—avocado-toned Holbein artist oil pastel (soft), from Art Warehouse . . . **$1.50**—side of guacamole, from Sabor Latino . . . **$8**—whole smoked rainbow trout, from Durham's Tracklements . . . **$12.99**—child's fishing pole, from Dunham's Sports . . . **$1.85**—one dozen night crawlers, from Maple & Miller Marathon.

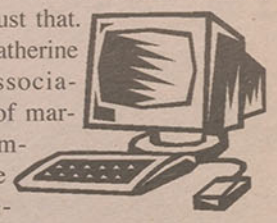
Missing mailboxes: So few people are mailing letters near their homes these days that the Ann Arbor post office has pulled eighteen mail collection boxes from neighborhoods. Postmaster Tim Inman says one of his predecessors "put *a lot* of boxes in residential areas," but a recent check showed the removed boxes were being fed fewer than twenty-five letters a day. "It's just another sign of the times," says the refreshingly frank Inman. "People just don't mail first-class letters like they used to." With fewer boxes, the post office saves two hours a day on collection routes. Most of the casualties were in the 48103 zip, including one a block from the main post office on West Stadium. If none of the 100-plus remaining boxes is convenient to your home, says Inman, just clip the letter to your mailbox and your carrier will pick it up (in Ann Arbor, according to Inman, there's little danger that identity thieves will get to your mail first). In the past some carriers griped about picking up mail from residences, but now, the postmaster says, "they understand it's part of customer service."

Photo op: On a beautiful summer Saturday night, three teenage boys lounged on a dilapidated couch at the bend where West Mosley meets Third Street—a grassy spot that's more curve than corner. The boys were full of themselves, loudmouthed and glowing, as a young woman descended toward them from Wurster Park carrying a digital camera. "Scrunch really close together—this pic's gonna be a chick magnet!" she promised. The boys moved in and put their arms around each other. Their horseplay continued as they lugged the couch up the grassy incline and parked at the hill's peak overlooking downtown. The kids watched the sunset, took a picture of it, and then tried lifting the couch with the girl sitting on it. Wisely deciding against that, they were last seen lumbering down Third toward Madison, couch in tow.

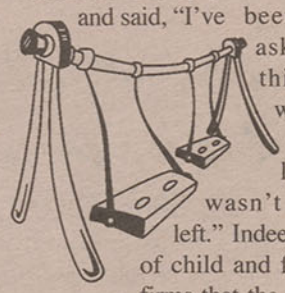
Feminist songwriters: With their first CD ready for release, Ann Arbor's Rebel Grrls are on a roll. The "Grrls" are local teens who meet at the Neutral Zone to write and record their songs and generally brainstorm about the music industry. Zone staffer Antonia Alvarez encouraged them to splinter off from the Zone's Youth Owned Records, because, she says, "so many girls stopped talking when boys were around." The Rebel Grrls—the name is loosely based on that of a former band, the Riot Grrls—will have a chance to discuss marketing their CDs at a weeklong music camp the Zone is sponsoring in early August, along with learning everything from sound production to "belly dancing as a vocal training technique" (taught by a songwriter from Boston). The CD, Alvarez says, features "lots of songs about love, lots of songs about relationships, lots of songs about wanting to be free"—mainly, free from parental control and high school.



Spam go blue: Few can elude the long arm of the credit bureaus—they can even track Wolverines in cyberspace. In May the U-M Alumni Association hired Equifax to do just that. According to Catherine Niekro, the association's director of marketing and communications, the onetime campaign was part of an "ongoing effort to collect and retain" contacts with alumni. The association provided a list of names, and the credit bureau came back with 66,000 e-mail addresses—enough to more than double the circulation of the association's electronic newsletter, *e-TrueBlue*. Although some recipients dropped the unsolicited e-mail straight in the spam can, Niekro claims the overall response was "overwhelmingly positive."



"Is that a playground on the roof?" On Ann Street near the U-M's Detroit Observatory, nine-year-old Max stopped and pointed into the blue sky over the university's medical megalopolis. Following his *Where's Waldo?*–trained gaze, Max's companions saw a cluster of canopies atop C. S. Mott Children's Hospital. A passing woman in Disney-print scrubs looked up and said, "I've been meaning to ask about that—this is my first week back from maternity leave, and it wasn't there when I left." Indeed, Mott's office of child and family life confirms that the penthouse playground was constructed rapidly in May; it was expected to open in July after completion of the last of many safety and structural tweaks to the seventh-floor roof. Offered a sneak peek by Mott PR staff, Max liked the slides and the unique solo merry-go-round. He learned that the labyrinth and splash tables are at a perfect height for wheelchairs. Mostly, though, he just wanted to jump on the spongy floor (made from dyed recycled car tires) and run wildly in the breeze whipping over the Plexiglas wall. "We designed it for patients, and also for their siblings," explains Mott child life specialist Meg Rescorla. "Siblings need to release energy when they're here." And racing along rooftops should provide a welcome respite from Mott's serious medical business. ■



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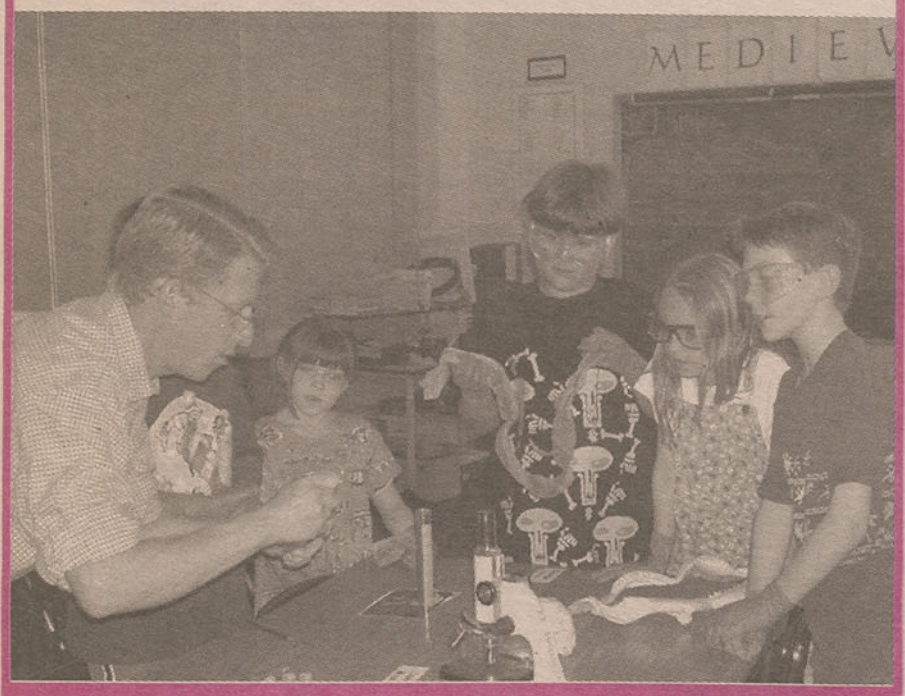

Open House Dates: Monday, August 4 at 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 7:00 p.m.

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- ...students learn from teaching specialists in all subject areas.
- ...advanced interdisciplinary curriculum is project & theme based.
- ...grade 5-8 students use a wireless notebook environment.
- ...all students have access to extraordinary software resources for interpreting text, image and sound in multimedia formats.
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Everything was hands-on, even literature. We sketched and did sculptures of plots of books. We studied science by going to hands-on museums and by doing all kinds of experiments. For the first time since preschool, I actually started looking forward to going to school in the mornings.

–Nick, 12th grade

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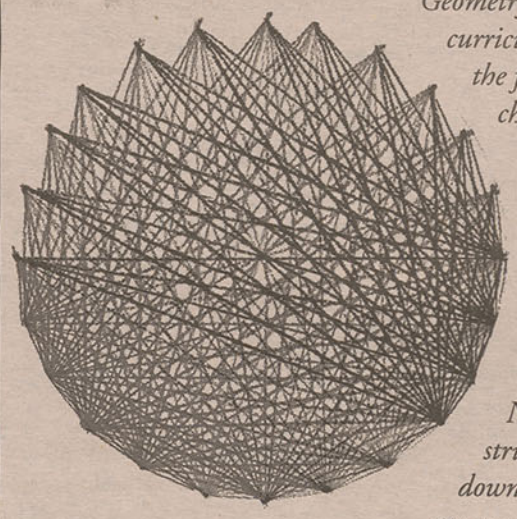

6th grade drawing by Aaron Black

Geometry is an integral part of the math curriculum at the Steiner School from the first day of school. Lower grade children experience geometry through stylized form drawing exercises, drama and eurythmy. In the sixth grade, a turning point occurs. With a compass and straightedge, sixth graders execute a series of complex geometric drawings. Now that they've experienced the structure of geometric forms right down to their fingertips, the students are ready to tackle proofs.

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INSIDE ann arbor

BUSINESS

Pharmacia Fallout

Pfizer is abandoning cancer research at its Ann Arbor labs.

The drug giant's $57 billion merger with Pharmacia has devastated Kalamazoo, which is bracing for the layoff of roughly 1,000 former Pharmacia employees. By comparison, Ann Arbor seems to have escaped relatively lightly: while a companywide reorganization has triggered plenty of anxiety, Pfizer officials say they expect employment here to keep growing.

What the company hasn't announced, though, is that the postmerger changes include eliminating all cancer research at its Ann Arbor labs. Responding to e-mailed questions from the Observer, Pfizer spokesperson Rick Chambers confirms that the cuts are already under way. "There is no timetable determined yet," Chambers writes, but he does say that drug discovery operations will go first, followed by animal testing jobs and, finally, clinical trials oversight. The company won't say how many positions are being eliminated.

Cancer has been a major focus at the local labs since the late 1970s, when Jerry Weisbach, Parke-Davis's research chief at the time, announced a new cancer initiative involving sixty scientists. (Pfizer acquired Parke-Davis's parent company, Warner-Lambert, in a hostile takeover in 2000.) Weisbach's effort mostly fizzled, but in the late 1990s the local labs generated two promising "smart" cancer drugs targeting cancer growth factors. While one of the drugs, CI-1040, appears stalled in development, the other, CI-1033, is moving steadily through advanced clinical trials.

These two cancer drugs and a third, CI-994, have needed a large number of local specialists to shepherd them through the expensive and labor-intensive clinical trials process. Those jobs will now disappear, although Chambers says new projects in other therapeutic areas will compensate, at least partly, for their loss. "It's too soon to say what the net result will be," he writes. "We do anticipate growth in the long term."

Two Ann Arbor scientists, David Fry and Judith Sebolt-Leopold, gained international stature from their cancer drug discoveries here. Word is that Fry has already left the company (he didn't respond to e-mail and phone messages from the Observer). Sebolt-Leopold will remain with Pfizer in another research division. Sebolt-Leopold's husband, former Pfizer senior director of cancer pharmacology Dick Leopold, created his own new job. He's founded a local cancer research company, Molecular Imaging Research, that recently won a $200,000 state grant.

MIDLIFE

Rock 'n' Roll Never Forgets

At Alex Johnson's Rock Band School, parents are signing up along with their kids.

Johnson opened the Ann Arbor Music Center in 1999 offering private lessons in guitar, bass, and drums. Last year, by popular demand, he added classes in the art of rock performance—and that's just what the thirty-four-year-old father of two considers it to be. "Just because you've heard these songs for most of your life doesn't mean you can automatically play them," he points out. "Rock music is an art form that, like any other, is worthy of study and practice."

MARGARET WHITE TEALL

Rick Northrup, Alex Johnson, and Cindy Hodges rock out.

The Rock Band School proved wildly popular with its original target audience, kids between ten and seventeen. Then one of Johnson's adult guitar students, Cindy Hodges, pointed out that at her day job as a Ford engineer, conversations around the water cooler often turned from the weather or politics to rock 'n' roll. And it seemed just about everyone she met wanted to do what she was doing: starting a band.

"Rock Alpine," subtitled "Our Collective Midlife Crisis," is a group of friends and neighbors who mostly hail from the Loch Alpine subdivision off Huron River Drive. "Suddenly the parents are saying, " 'Man, I *almost* forgot to rock!' " says Johnson. "So one fortyish professional picks up a guitar, looks around the neighborhood, and gets together with the guy who used to play drums in college, and over here is a woman who's been taking piano lessons, and so on. They all get together, learn some songs, maybe perform at the block party—and now they're on their way to local stardom." At least that's how it worked for Rock Alpine. When they booked their first performance (they do only parties and fund-raisers), Hodges and another of Johnson's students, bassist Rick Northrup, asked him to sit in. The gig was a smashing success, and the group became the talk of the town, or at least the sub.

The experience helped persuade Johnson to start a grown-up version of his Rock Band School; so far, ten adults have signed up, including Hodges and Northrup. "The best part about taking up guitar when you're forty is that you're probably more disciplined as an adult," says Hodges, a thirty-nine-year-old mother of two elementary-schoolers. "You have only so much time to practice, so you need to make the most of it."

Another big difference is that midlife rockers can afford better gear than the average teen band. "I used to sing in a band in my early twenties, and we were always scrounging for equipment," Hodges says. "Now, I think the guys down at RIT Music are thrilled when I walk through the door, because I'm always looking for new stuff for the band, or a new guitar." The other members of Rock Alpine also are continually on the prowl for new things to enhance their sound—keyboards, microphones, and more. "Why not?" asks Hodges. "Lots of my colleagues spend more buying the latest and greatest golf clubs. We just want to rock!"

Hodges's husband, Andy, was in a band in high school and now plays bass in a neighborhood band in Canton. He says he's noticed that the more things change, the more they stay the same. "In high school my parents were always telling me to turn my amp down," he recalls. "And now my kids are telling me to turn it down when we practice."

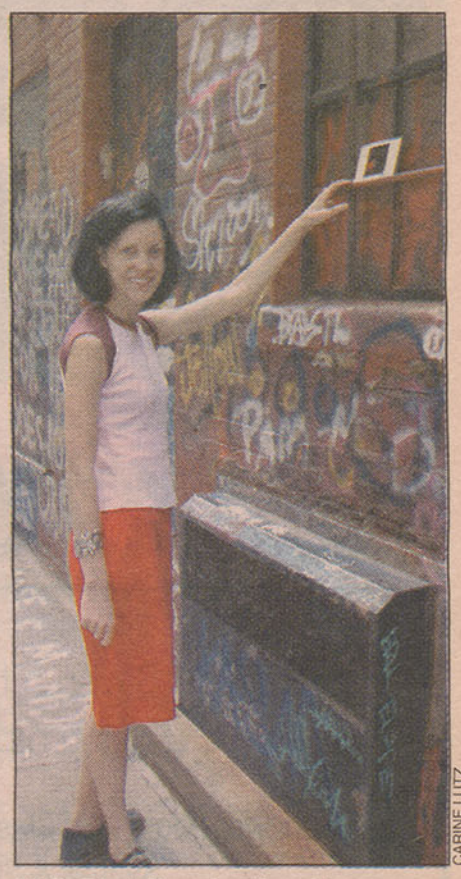
ART

Postcards from MM

Local residents are finding postcards from places they've never been.

The cards appear leaning on window ledges in downtown alleys, tucked between salt and pepper shakers on tables in their favorite restaurants, or propped up against mirrors in the rest rooms of neighborhood coffeehouses. Each represents an abandoned thought from the mind of local artist Molly Mast. Whatever the finders do with them—marvel at the composition of the photograph, mail it back (with or without a comment), or simply stash it in a drawer—it's all part of a project Mast began as a way to allow people to encounter art in places they weren't looking for it.

Mast says she conceived the project after a year of taking Polaroid snapshots of whatever caught her attention and incorporating the photos into a visual journal—"I would tack them on my wall in a huge, obsessively organized, pleasing grid." Then, at the end of last year, she began "thinking about not feeling like I have to have so much *control,*" and wondered how she could imitate her thought processes through her art. She chose images from her journal to use in the first postcards as physical representations of thoughts to let go of.

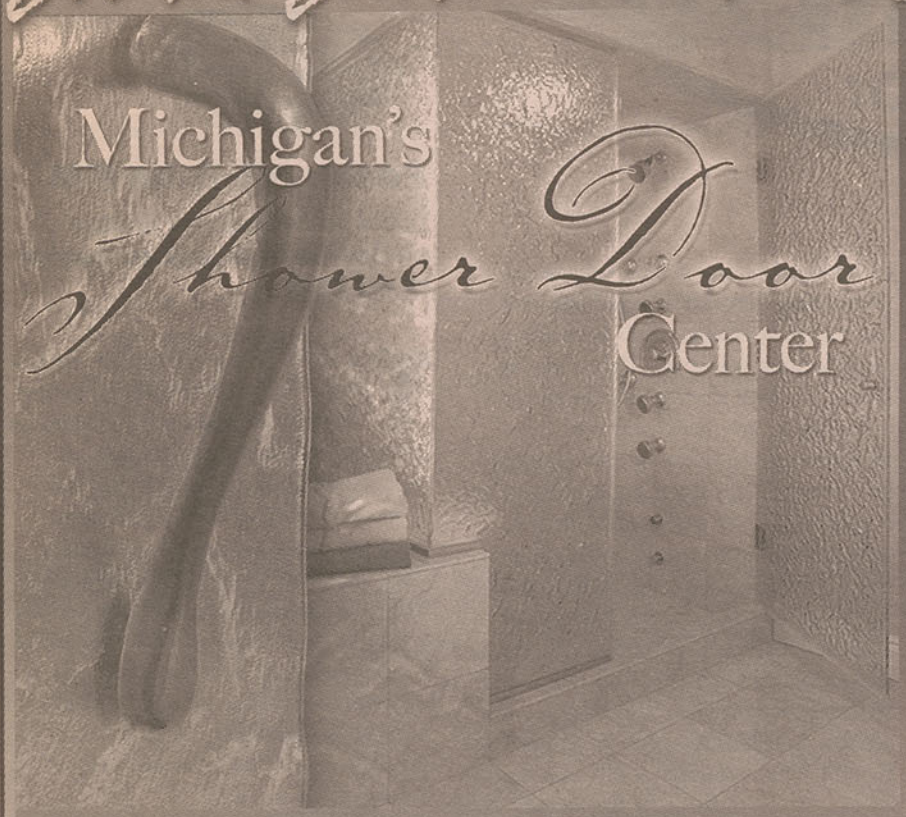


CARINE LUTZ

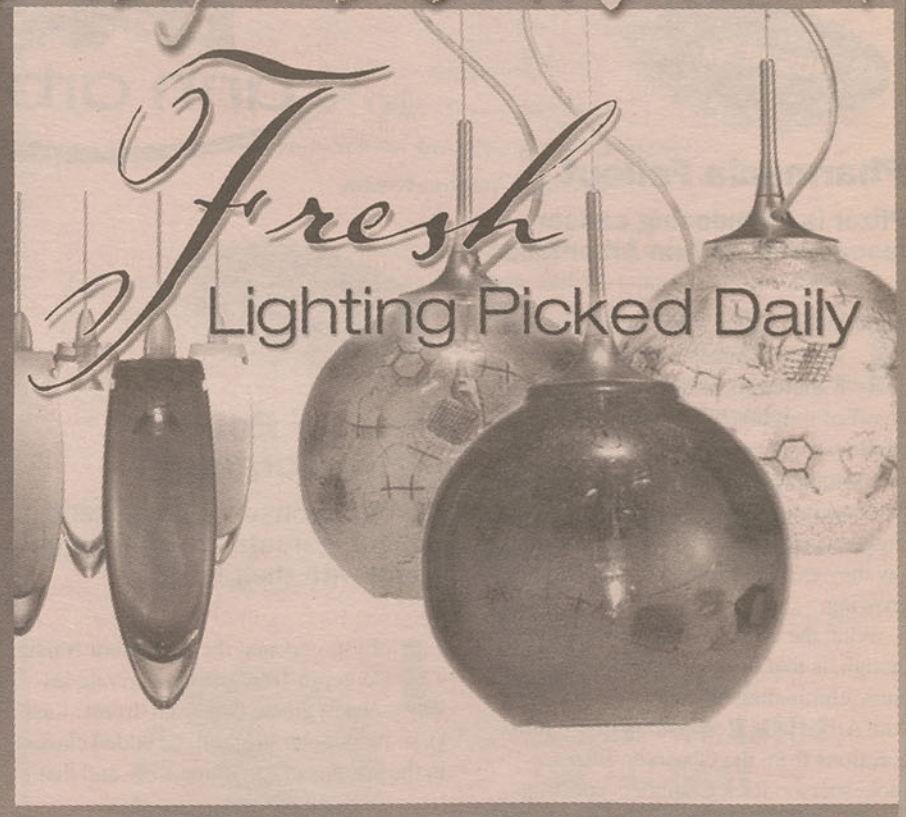
Molly Mast discards a thought.

From Ann Arbor to Petoskey

See the Showroom that Designers Call Home!



Michigan's Shower Door Center



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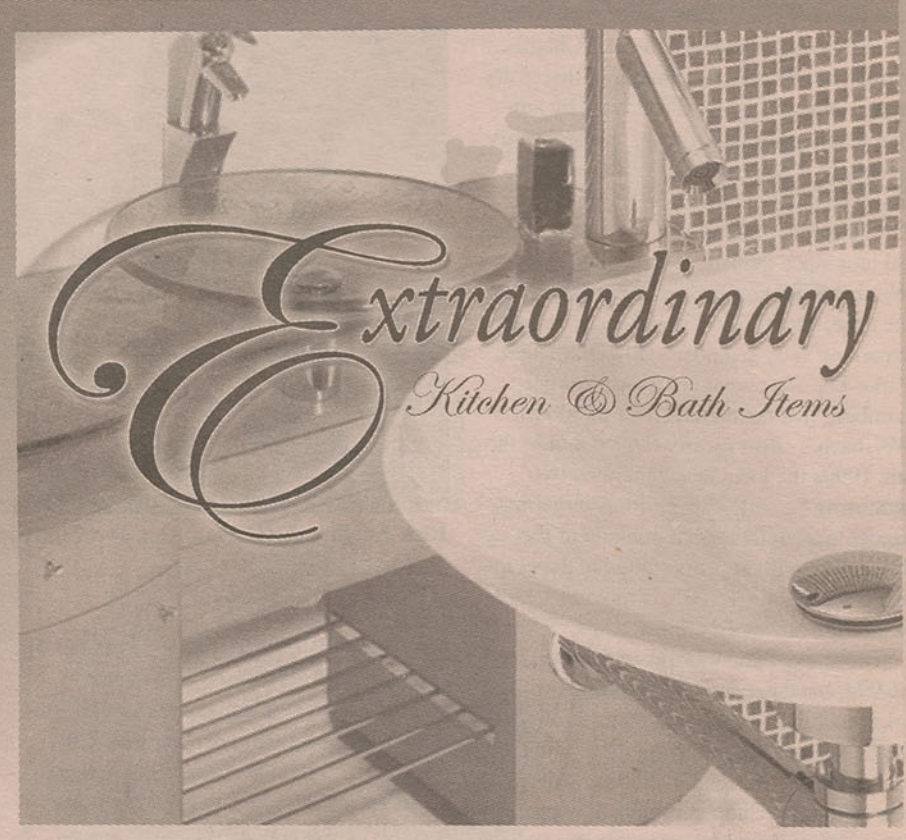

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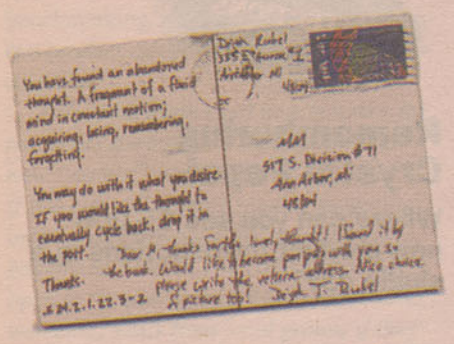
Each Polaroid is pasted on four-by-six-inch mat board and preaddressed (with postage) to a mailbox Mast rents. She says she waited until her mind was free of expectations before she began setting out the cards in January. "They didn't come back for a month," she says, so friends suggested she start placing them in more sheltered areas where they wouldn't get lost or damaged in the snow.

Like thoughts, the photos reflect fleeting moments that return at unexpected times, in unexpected ways, or merely evaporate. Sometimes the cards come back with a postmark as the only alteration. Others have written comments. Still others show signs they were caught in the weather. And, of course, some never return.


You have found an abandoned thought. A fragment of a fixed mind in constant motion; acquiring, losing, remembering, forgetting.
You may do with it what you desire. If you would like the thought to eventually cycle back, drop it in the post.
Thanks.

Mast says that when the cards come back, she often does not remember what she was thinking when she created them. Yet thoughts she wants to let go of the most—like what caused a bad day—are often the ones she does end up remembering, whether or not their photo images return.

Mast says making and distributing the postcards has helped free her mind of "constricting thoughts." With other projects, trying to figure out who would see her work and what they might think of it can influence her art—but with no idea who will see the cards, she's free to create from her core.

Mast places the cards randomly in Ann Arbor and the Detroit area to "put them into other people's hands to have their own adventures." The project continues, so you still may chance upon art in Ann Arbor where you least expect it. Those who don't want to trust in chance can find a selection of Mast's Polaroids displayed at the Henrietta Fahrenheit boutique in Ypsilanti from September 5 through October 15.

FUND-RAISING

Generous Guru

"Would fifty thousand dollars help?"

The question caught Peter Sparling off guard. For six months, Sparling's studio and dance company had been trying to raise $200,000 to move from the soon-to-be-demolished Technology Center on Third Street to a converted factory on Wildt. But when Sparling stopped to see Rudolf Arnheim after getting back from a trip to New York in June, a major gift was the last thing on his mind. The two men have been friends for twelve years, and Sparling describes the retired U-M psychology of art professor as "my guru." He says that Arnheim's theories on art and perception gave him "the guidelines toward a way of looking at my own work."

But as Sparling described his dreams for his new studio, the intellectual guru revealed another side: the $50,000 Arnheim offered would cover three-fourths of the $65,000 still to be raised for the move. The dancer admits his first reaction was that his friend—who is ninety-nine and lives in Glacier Hills—might finally be losing his judgment. "We are taking donations starting at twenty-five dollars," Sparling responded cautiously. But Arnheim insisted on the larger amount. (The studio is still working on raising the last $15,000.)

The nonprofit studio and company moved in July, shortly before demolition started on the Tech Center. The new space, airy and wide-windowed, has room for

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"I saw this and I started crying" with happiness, says dancer Peter Sparling.

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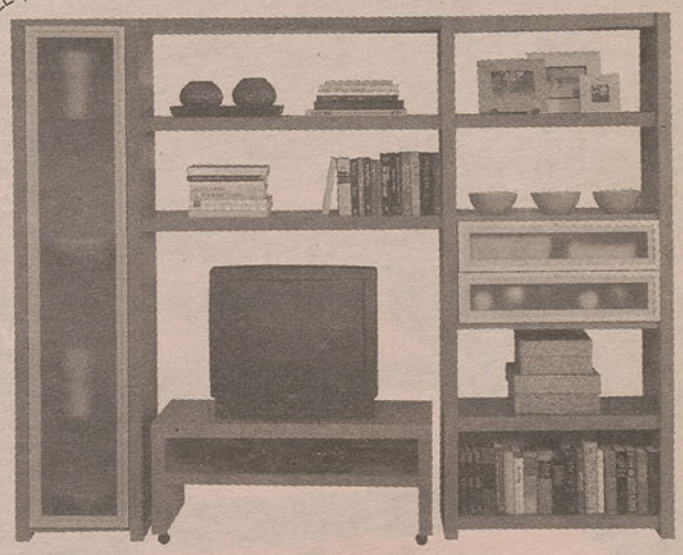

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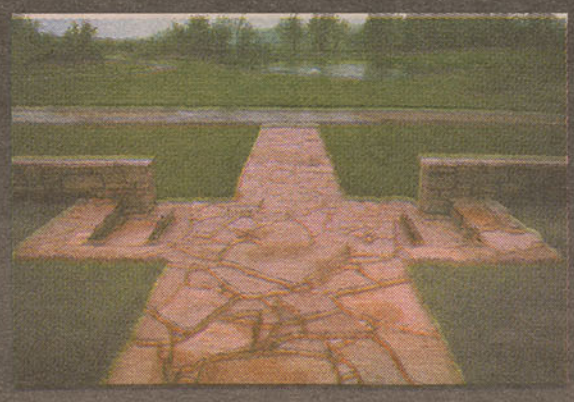

faculty and administrative offices, a reception area, dressing rooms, and extra office space to sublet, as well as a pair of dance studios. The smaller one will be used by Ruth Leney-Midkiff for her growing youth program. The larger studio, which has room for classes of thirty-five students, is now officially the Rudi Arnheim Studio.

Many of the other artists who left the Technology Center are moving to cheaper space in Ypsilanti. Sparling admits that he was tempted to join them. He decided against it, he says, because he wants "to preserve the vitality of the independent artist in Ann Arbor. We are taking a stand and staying here."

COLLECTIONS

Remembering Crystal Pepsi

Where can you see 65,000 new-product introductions in a single day?

Only in Ann Arbor. Brand managers from all over the country regularly visit a nondescript south-side commercial building to conduct research, hold meetings, and learn from past new-product successes and failures.

NewProductWorks is the brainchild of Robert McMath, author of *What Were They Thinking? Marketing Lessons I've Learned from Over 80,000 New-Product Innovations and Idiocies*. Two years ago McMath was looking for a way to cut back on his schedule. Phil Roos, owner of the Arbor Strategy Group, a local consulting firm, saw McMath's collection as a tangible resource for clients. The two men cut a deal, and soon the move from Ithaca, New York, was under way. It took more than one moving van and many hands to unpack the priceless trove of consumer collectibles, which range from Crystal Pepsi and Touch of Yogurt shampoo to Eclipse cigarettes.

For the average person, strolling the collection's aisles is a surreal experience. It almost looks like a very quiet grocery store, but every product is new and improved—and most also are old and discontinued. The most common words heard during a visit are "I remember that!"

For representatives from Kraft, Kellogg, Unilever, and other brands, it's serious business: the new-product introductions commemorated here are a matter of economic life and death. They pay big bucks for access to the collection, along with the

PRODUCT PHOTOS CIBELE VIEIRA

At NewProductWorks, everything in the collection is new and improved—and most are old and discontinued.

opportunity to brainstorm with its staff. "We try to capture the underlying themes in new-product launches—why they do or don't resonate with the consumer," says NewProductWorks' Marilyn Raymond. "Clients come in to perform competitive benchmarking, monitor trends among various product categories—and simply for inspiration."

Robert McMath lived in Ann Arbor for two years during the transition but has now "retired" back to New York—that is, if you can call writing regular magazine articles and traveling for speaking engagements retired. The collection is not open to the public, but NewProductWorks welcomes visits from local groups if they are planned in advance.

CYBERSPACE

Craig Does Detroit

Ann Arborites are sampling the local version of a legendary California website.

Mention "craigslist" in the middle of an Ann Arbor conversation, and there's a good chance it'll glide right over the head of your listeners. Throw out that same reference to someone in San Francisco, and you're likely to hear about a VW Bug bought for $200, or a disastrous blind date, or a job as a professional web surfer—all scored through the behemoth website www.craigslist.org.

Founded in the mid-1990s as programmer Craig Newmark's e-mail listserve, craigslist eventually snowballed into a website crammed with classified listings. The site gets all its income from fees charged for job postings; all other listings are free. That—and the absence of banners and pop-up ads—gave it a grassroots, community cachet and helped turn the site into a Bay Area institution.

While more grandiose web empires have long since gone belly-up, craigslist is not only surviving, it's expanding into more than twenty other cities. A Detroit offshoot went on-line this past April. Although detroit.craigslist.org pales in comparison to its older cousins, it's certainly a noteworthy start. Recent Ann Arbor–based postings included an ad for a $2,000 Dave Guardala tenor saxophone and another offering a garage full of pottery equipment ("free to a bona-fide 501(c)(3) charity, otherwise for sale cheap").

The site isn't just about commerce. Someone named Mike craved knitting partners in Ann Arbor, while under "Missed Connections" the sassy red-haired girl (with the cross-dresser friends) aimed to get back in touch with "the unbelievably cute lil boy" who nibbled her ear outside Pizza House. ■

LIFE IN ANN ARBOR — Tim Athan

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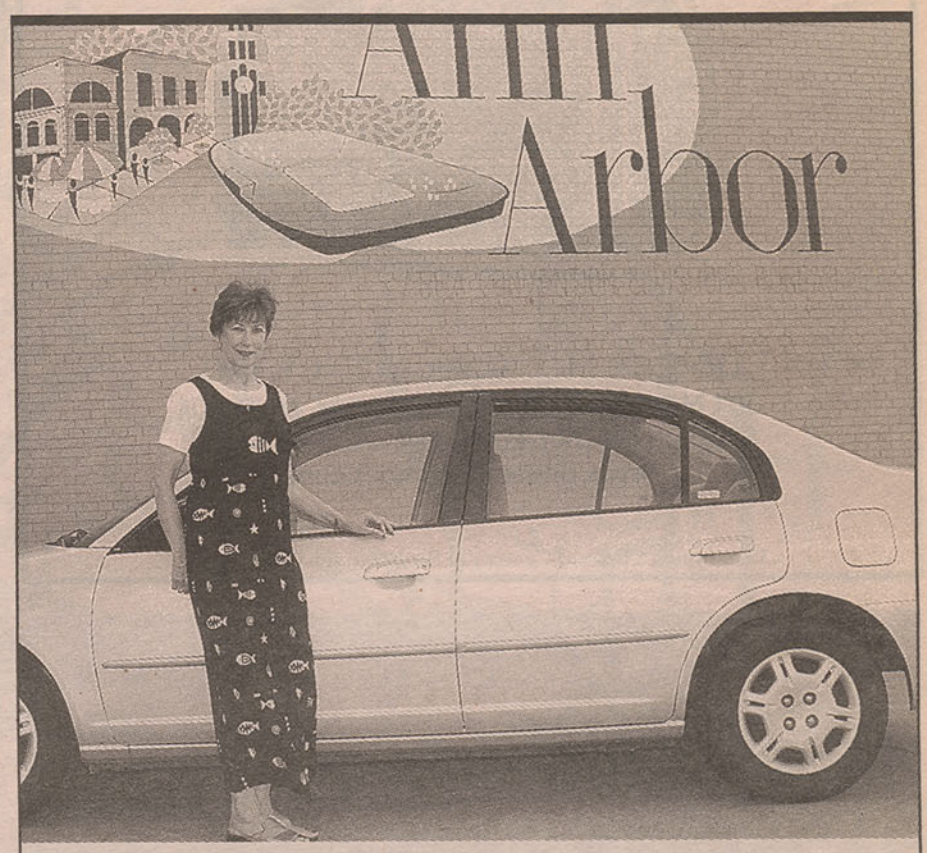

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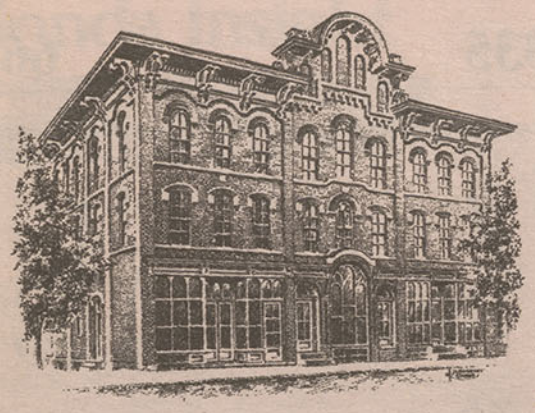

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PUBLIC SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE

The City of Ann Arbor realizes that our residents depend on our ability to give them proper and thorough information. Therefore, we want to familiarize you with our Sidewalk Repair Program designed to ensure the safety and maintenance of our public sidewalks. We are committed to providing our property owners with comprehensive guidance through the procedures and various options in maintaining our public sidewalks. Hundreds of people, many of whom are children or physically challenged, use the public sidewalks of Ann Arbor daily. Their safety and ease of passage depends on our personal sense of responsibility regarding the needs of our fellow citizens.

THREE REASONS TO REPAIR YOUR PUBLIC SIDEWALK:

- Children, the elderly, and the physically challenged make use of our sidewalks daily. The risk of injury is high on poorly maintained sidewalks. Your help is required to make sure they can walk safely on our sidewalks.
- To comply with City Code Chapters 47 and 49, property owners are asked to properly maintain the sidewalks adjacent or abutting to their property for the use of the public.
- Proper maintenance of our sidewalks will add to the aesthetic image of our city and ensure the safe passage of pedestrians (including children and the physically challenged) along them.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: How do I report a sidewalk that needs repair?

A: The Sidewalk Repair Program is based upon service requests from citizens. You can report any poorly maintained sidewalk by calling **(734) 994-2818**. A staff member from our sidewalk team will inspect the sidewalk and will notify the property owner if repairs are required.

Q: What if it seems the damage was caused by tree roots?

A: You should contact the **Public Services Department** at **(734) 994-2818** or you may also contact the **Parks and Recreation Department, Forestry Division** at **(734) 994-2768** to request an inspection. A staff member from our sidewalk team will inspect your sidewalk.

SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE:

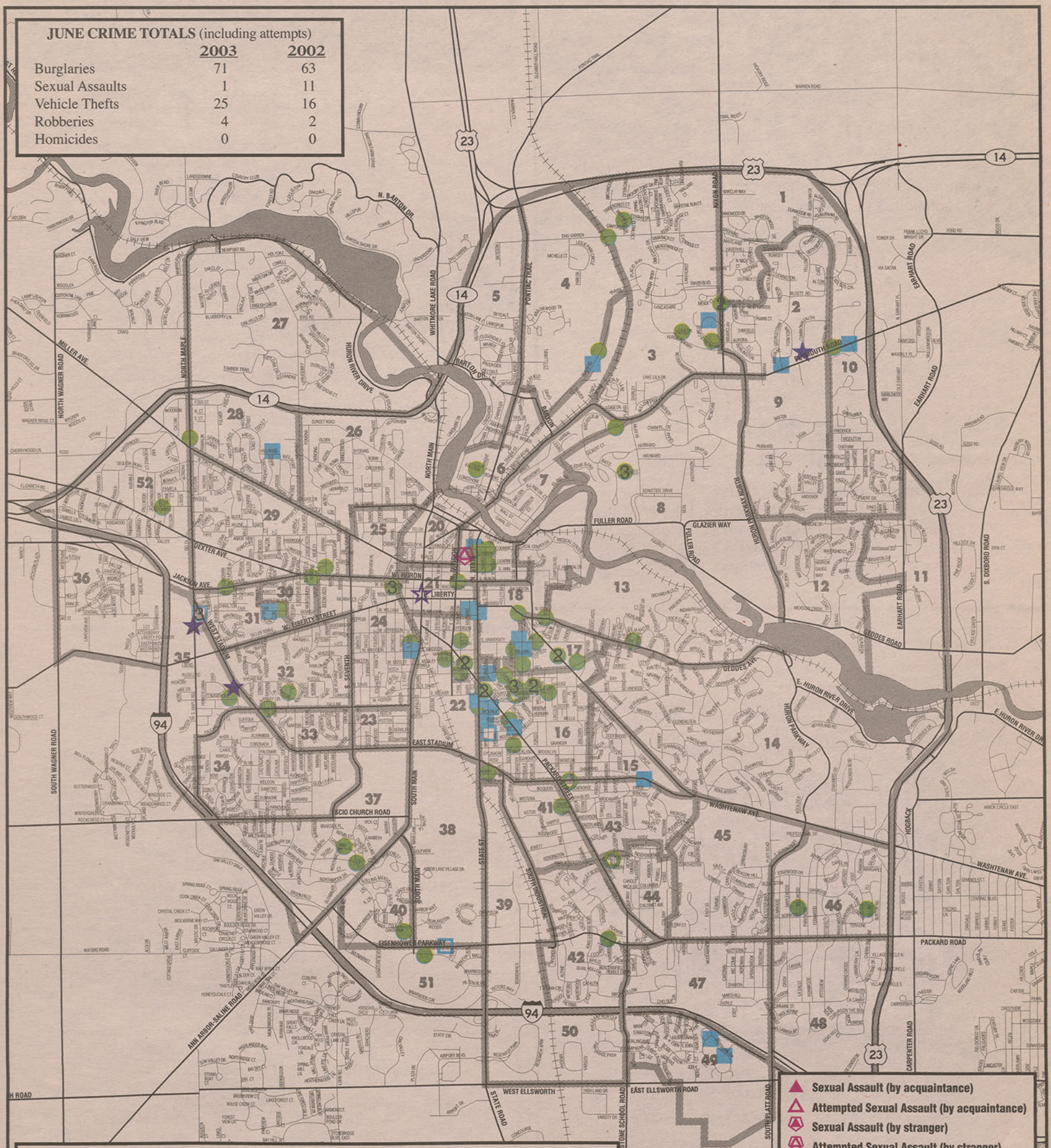
1. Call the **Public Services Department** at **(734) 994-2818** to schedule an on-site inspection. A staff member from our sidewalk team will assess what repairs are needed and provide any information needed to properly repair the sidewalk.
2. Property owners or contractors may obtain the specification and standards for sidewalk repair from the City's **Building Department**, located on the **Sixth Floor of City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue**.
3. If you plan to do the repair yourself, contact the Building Department to obtain a right-of-way permit to work within the public right of way 48 hours prior to the work; you must submit certified proof of insurance in the amount of $100,000.
4. If you plan to have a contractor do the work, have them obtain a right-of-way permit from the Building Department 48 hours prior to starting work. In order to be granted the permit, the contractor must submit a certified proof of public liability insurance in the amount of $500,000.

Property owners may verify that a contractor has a permit by calling the Building Department at (734) 994-2674 at least one day before work begins. Remember, property owners grouping together are likely to receive lower unit prices due to the greater quantity of work!

CRIME MAP

JUNE CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2003	2002
Burglaries	71	63
Sexual Assaults	1	11
Vehicle Thefts	25	16
Robberies	4	2
Homicides	0	0



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the city of Ann Arbor and on the University of Michigan campus during **June.** The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call **Neighborhood Watch at 994–8775** (Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or the **Anonymous 24 Hour Tip Line** at *996–3199*. To report a crime on the U-M campus, call the university's **Department of Public Safety** at *763–1131*, or call their **Anonymous Tip Line** at *(800) 863–1355*.

KEY

- Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
- Attempted Sexual Assault (by acquaintance)
- Sexual Assault (by stranger)
- Attempted Sexual Assault (by stranger)
- Robbery
- Attempted Robbery
- Burglary
- Attempted Burglary
- Vehicle Theft
- Attempted Vehicle Theft
- Homicide

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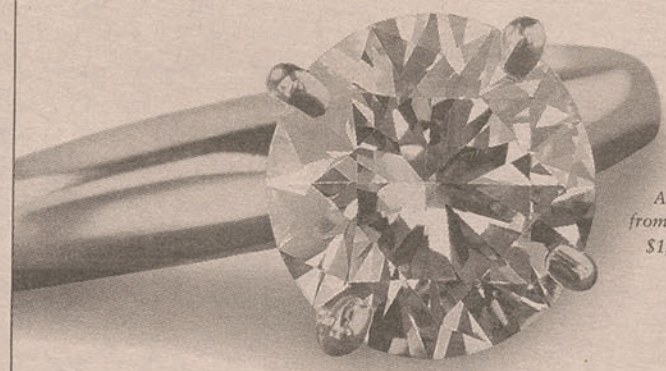

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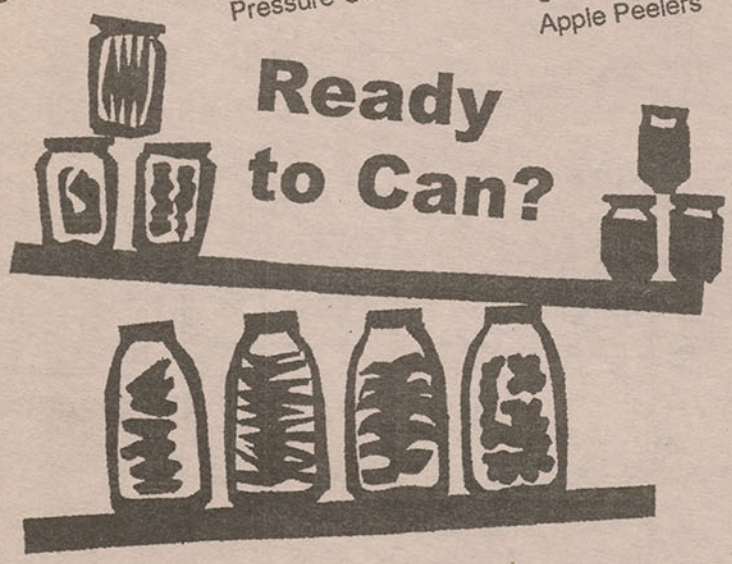

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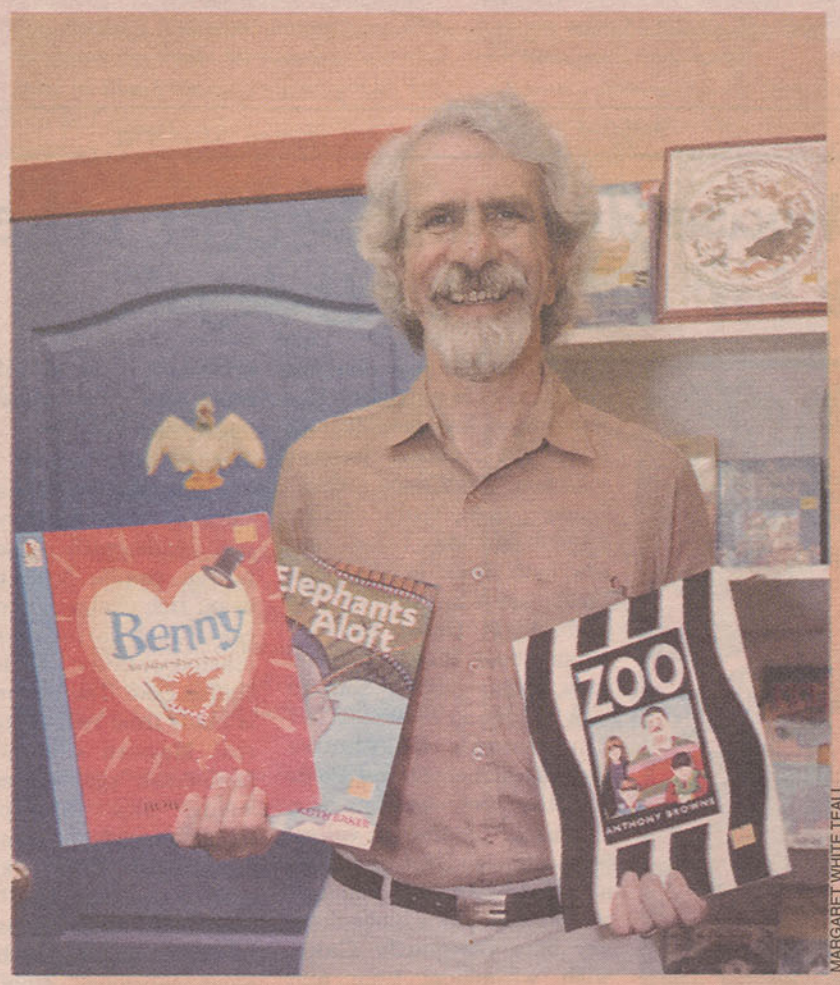
Steve Kelly

Life as a "literary raven"



MARGARET WHITE TEALL

"Most people who enjoy reading say they want to open a bookstore," says After Words owner Steve Kelly. "But if there's time to read, you're not doing enough business to stay open."

Kelly, fifty-four, should know. The 1970 U-M grad has worked in bookstores all his adult life, cutting his teeth at the long vanished Student Book Service in Ann Arbor and then moving on to remote Newfoundland, where he and his wife, Michele, eventually owned a store selling Gothics and westerns to fishermen and their wives. In 1979 the Kellys returned to Ann Arbor for a visit—and wound up opening After Words on Main Street. They've been here ever since.

After Words got its name because most of its titles are "remainders"—books being dumped by publishers at the end of their print runs. "We're kind of ravens on the roadside, picking up literary roadkill," Kelly says.

One recent Saturday afternoon, the lanky and bearded Kelly is working the register. The store is as utilitarian as his work uniform of jeans and long-sleeve striped shirt: its wood floors scuffed, its strips of carpet worn and taped in places. The walls are painted a slightly off-key shade of orange that resembles the color of butternut squash. There are no signs announcing author readings, because the store has none (authors rarely want to publicize the fact that their books have been remaindered). But there are plenty of interesting books, and that's enough for customers like Mark Dixon from Bowling Green, Ohio, who's here looking for good buys in architecture and philosophy books that he can't find anywhere else. "For discounted books, it has a very wide selection," he says.

Deep voiced and deliberate, Kelly says that After Words does its best to "stay out of the way" of the giants Borders and Barnes & Noble, which also sell remainders. He explains that After Words tends to choose more specialized titles, and ones with less mass-market appeal than those carried by the giants or another local competitor, Bargain Books on State Street.

The store's most popular section, children's books, is the responsibility of Michele Kelly, who doesn't do interviews. Next in popularity are history and fiction, which, besides the classics, are strong on a lot of lesser-known names like black writer Ishmael Reed, who customers say is difficult to find in stores.

For Steve, deciding what his customers might like is a challenge that refuses to be captured in a formula. For instance, he would not have predicted that a diet book called *I Left My Fat Behind* would sell 1,000 copies a few years ago, or that his customers would suddenly display, as they recently did, an interest in fashion books.

In addition to remainders, After Words carries books that are still in print but with prices reduced for faster sales. The Kellys make most of their buying decisions on trips to warehouses near New York City and in the South. Walking into one of the huge warehouses, where books are organized by publisher, is "like walking into a candy store," says Kelly. But buying decisions are a big deal, because After Words can't return unsold inventory. "When we make a commitment," says Kelly, "it's death do us part." When books refuse to leave the shelves, the Kellys donate them to libraries or, "in extreme cases," to the recycling center.

Maintaining an independent bookstore is not easy, especially on Main Street, which in recent years has tilted increasingly toward restaurants. It's helped a lot that the store was able to buy its building ten years ago. And even when After Words goes through hard spells, Kelly says, it still beats running the bookstore in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, population about 20,000.

The Kellys originally moved to the rocky island to manage a small chain of bookstores. The company that hired them went bankrupt after the first year, but they bought one of the stores and stayed on another four years, homesteading in a house they still hadn't finished by the time they left. Kelly says they sold Harlequin romances and Louis L'Amour westerns to the locals and more esoteric reading to the "foreign ghetto." At one point a local library bought virtually their entire stock, and they had to close the store for a couple of weeks waiting for new inventory.

With affection, Kelly remembers what he calls the locals' "boneheadedness." For example, the fishermen bought a lot of appliances on credit during the summer and found themselves unable to keep up the payments when the harbor froze over and they could no longer fish. But "they would not give them back to the repo man," Kelly recalls. Instead, come winter they would haul their refrigerators and TV sets down to the bay, chop holes through the ice, and drop them in.

Kelly grew up in St. Clair Shores in a family that shopped ferociously at yard sales and library sales. "I don't think anybody ever paid full price for a book," he says. He met Michele in high school, and they married right after he graduated from the U-M. At Student Book Service both of them worked for the late Ned and Fred Shure, whom they remember as good bosses and mentors. "An incredible number of people who worked for Fred and Ned went on to open their own stores," says Kelly.

Away from the job, the Kellys hike and camp and enjoy their new home near a lake in Hamburg Township. It is the largest house they've had—even though, Steve notes, "it only has an eight-hundred-and-fifty-square-foot footprint." Still, Steve, who stares at thousands of books every working day, has a special reason to take pleasure in his new home: "For the first time in my life," he says, "I have a library."

—Eve Silberman

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The Zingerman's Times

Vol. 6 no. 8 ©2003 DSE Inc. August 2003 Printed in Ann Arbor Land of a thousand flavors

zing news nibbles

ZingTrain Seminars Get On Track in September

The fall schedule for ZingTrain's seminars has just been obtained by the *Times*. Called "Training's New Guard for 2003" by *Training and Development* Magazine, ZingTrain seminars have become the hot training ticket in town. All types of business folk have been seen gobbling up its service, merchandising and management knowledge. "This was...the most valuable time spent in my career," said Ken Zankel from San Francisco's Grove restaurant. To learn more, call ZingTrain at (734) 930-1919 today.

Roadhouse Opens Doors to Really Good American Food

Reports emanating from Zingerman's Roadhouse state that the full-service, sit down restaurant is set to open its doors in September. "We're very excited to bring fantastic regional dishes, from New Orleans Gumbo to New England Lobster Roll to food-loving folks from all over," said Managing Partner and Chef, Alex Young. For more details, call (734) 663-FOOD.

inside Zingerman's

Zingerman's Delicatessen	422 Detroit St. 663.DELI
Zingerman's Bakehouse	3711 Plaza Dr. 761.2095
Zingerman's Catering	422 Detroit St. 663.3400
Zingerman's Events	422 Detroit St. 663.9215
Zingerman's mail order	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
ZingTRAIN	PO Box 1837 930.1919
Zingerman's Creamery	Manchester, MI 665.1901
Zingerman's Roadhouse	2501 Jackson Rd. 663.FOOD

www.Zingermans.com

bakehouse declares "better cakes make for better birthdays!"

Local birthday partiers have noticed a higher level of happiness in guests' with ZingCasion cakes.

The *Times* has just received confirmation that the Bakehouse has revealed it's much-anticipated summer collection: "ZingCasion Cakes." These are truly haute couture birthday cakes, that are both great-looking and great tasting. In fact, the *New York Times* recently wrote about this new trend in a recent issue. Sources have learned that Zingerman's Bakehouse Cake Designer Sharyl Politi and her crew handmake a stunning palate of cakes, from a festive **Ribbon Cake**, adorned with 3-D fondant streamers, and a bluer-than-sky blue **Dragonfly Cake**, with whimsical blue and purple fondant dragonflies on top, to the **Gift Cake**, decorated like a present and tied with fondant ribbons, in baby blue and lime green or yellow and peach, and more. "They're the most flavorful way to have a birthday, and so rich, a little bit will go a long way," said avid cake eater Rene Phillipe.

Times investigators found out that the cakes really do taste as good as they look, too. Made with either all-butter, vanilla bean pound-cake; rich, Belgian chocolate cake; fresh carrot cake with toasted walnuts; and delicate chiffon cake. The buttercream is made from real butter and real Mexican vanilla bean, farm-fresh egg whites and sugar; and the fondant is homemade, creamy and luscious! One excited customer exclaimed, "I never even knew that fondant and buttercream were edible, let alone delicious!" ZingCasion cakes are tailored to fit. Available in a 6" round or 5" square for $30, or a 9" round or 8" square for $60. Take it from the *Times*, better cakes really do make for better birthdays! For more details, call (734) 761-7255 today.

Nueske's better b.L.t.'s begin with better bacon

Studies of BLT lovers nationwide show a clear connection between the quality of the bacon and that of the finished BLT. All too many restaurants stick to standard, shrink-when-you-cook-it sliced bacon. But the *Times* has discovered this is not true at Zingerman's. For them it's strictly Applewood-Smoked Bacon from Nueske's in Wisconsin. It's no surprise then, that Zingerman's has been consistently shown to produce a tastier BLT. Just how good is this special bacon? According to the *New York Times*, Nueske's Applewood-Smoked bacon is "the beluga of bacon, the Rolls-Royce of rashers." Want to check it out for yourself? Try it on the #66, "Zingerman's BLT" with leaf lettuce, tomato and Hellmann's® mayo on Zingerman's Jewish Rye, or the #21, "Fribourg's Feast" with lettuce, tomato, Vermont cheddar and Hellmann's® mayo on a New Yorker onion roll.

creamery spices it up with new cheese

Reports from Zingerman's Creamery state that there's a new player in town. According to the *Times*' Fresh Finds department, the Creamery is in fact making a new cheese called "Bridgewater." When asked to describe this new cheese, Deli Retail Rebel Andy Hanna had this to say: "Bridgewater is a double cream cheese [this means that heavy cream has been added to the milk, making the finished cheese's fat content over 30%], that is aged for one to two months then molded into a small round shape and spiced with fabulous cracked Telicherry Peppercorns from Zingerman's Land of a 1000 Spices." According to Hanna, the extra aging adds to its fantastic flavor, and makes it unique among fresh cheeses.

Available at the Delicatessen for $4.99/each.

Special in August!
Buy a Bridgewater, get a buck off a pound of cream cheese!

produce gets fresh with local deli

Recent reports of horses milling about Zingerman's Delicatessen had *Times* reporters wondering if this was a solution to the limited parking. The true story however, was even better. The horses belong to Breakaway Produce, a consortium of local organic growers who set up shop in front of the Deli every Friday, from 12 to 6PM. Spearheaded by Deli Managing Partner Todd Wickstrom and Deli kitchen guru Rodger Bowser, this cooperative effort is part of Zingerman's ongoing effort to bring traditional, full-flavored food to Ann Arbor. "This is something to get excited about," attests Bowser. "These greens are fresher. No chemical fertilizers are used, and people locally are employed growing them, even some of our guests. And, they taste fantastic!" His efforts can be found in the Farmer's Market Salad, the Cyprus Salad, the Panzanella Salad, and on the sandwiches. Stop by the Deli to taste the difference for yourself.

Zingerman's local produce goes to the horses.

The Olive Oil & Vinegar Tasting
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BRIDGING the GAP

The Family Learning Institute's reading program for low-income students is getting amazing results.

by Yma A. Johnson

It seemed an impossible dream: a handful of volunteers taking on a problem that had stymied the school system for years. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the Ann Arbor Public Schools tried watchdog committees, new programs, and even a designated top administrator in their efforts to close the "achievement gap." Yet poor students, especially African Americans, continued to fall far behind their peers in standardized tests. In 1998, 35 percent of all Ann Arbor fourth-graders—and 71 percent of black fourth-graders—failed the state's MEAP reading test twice.

The MEAP test is tough, and students who fall short in fourth grade can catch up later. But the numbers were a reminder of a serious academic failure—one with frightening social implications. "Penal demographers start projecting how many penal institutions are needed by the numbers of kids who are failing in fourth grade," says Lefiest Galimore, who at the time managed community services for Washtenaw County. "That's a critical point. Fourth grade seems to be where the resource for that sort of thing drops off, especially for kids whose families cannot afford to get them that specialized support" outside school.

So in 1999 Galimore teamed up with retired Ann Arbor elementary teacher Doris Sperling to launch the Family Learning Institute. The independent nonprofit opened in March 2000 with eight students in its intensive reading and literacy program. That number has since blossomed to 100—and against all odds, FLI is making huge strides toward bridging the achievement gap.

This May the group published its first statistics based on the Qualitative Reading Inventory, which measures comprehension, fluency, and word recognition. FLI compared the scores for twenty-seven students in fourth through eighth grade, before and after a year in the program. An amazing 90 percent had improved their reading scores by at least one and a half grade levels; 30 percent had gained the equivalent of two full grades.

"If you can't read by the time you get in the fourth grade, you're destined to be failing or close to failure all the way through your schooling," says Sperling in her light southern accent. "Even though reading is taught, there's really no provision to be doing the intense kind of teaching of reading that is done in the first three grades." Because educators assume that older students have already mastered that critical skill, those who haven't often fall farther and farther behind.

"If we really want to help kids," says Galimore, "one of the things that we have to understand is that if kids are not reading well, they are not going to be able to do well in school, period. Reading is the foundation to being able to do other things."

To build that foundation, FLI recruited and trained a core of volunteer reading coaches. Each mentor works with one student for a full year. The weekly sessions are private, to avoid stigmatizing students as academic failures. "We focus on attitude, self-confidence, building a belief that they can learn," explains Sperling. "Many kids have given up already."

Sperling stresses that the program is not about homework tutoring. "We are strictly a literacy program. We teach them to read, write, and think." Many low-income students lack the life experiences and context to fully understand school reading assignments; through intensive reading, FLI gives them the background needed to better comprehend information presented in the classroom.

In addition to the one-on-one mentoring, students are asked to read on their own for thirty minutes a day, five days a week. They also meet in small discussion groups to learn how to form and support opinions. And parents are part of the program as well. "We want to help parents understand how they can be an effective support for their children," Galimore says, because parent involvement is a key predictor of academic success.

Galimore insists that the problem for FLI parents is not lack of interest but rather lack of knowledge about how to help their children be good readers. FLI bridges that gap through its parent empowerment program: parents learn how to monitor homework and report cards while also providing emotional support for children struggling with reading. "We don't want parents to feel defeated," explains Galimore. "We want them to feel that there is something they can do."

Most of FLI's students are referred by the public schools. "The message that we're trying to communicate to the schools is that we're not competing with you—we're not pointing our fingers at you," says Galimore. "Accept us as a support system for you—because obviously we're getting some results."

According to Sperling, teachers love it when their students join FLI; the teachers report better behavior that coincides with improved academic performance. "We are saving lives," she says. "We're giving a second chance to kids."

FLI recently added a technology specialist, a family empowerment program director, a volunteer staff director, and five students from the U-M—all of whom donate their services. "All of that is good," says Galimore. "But we need money."

FLI provides its services free to any low-income student. Its modest $168,000 annual operating budget comes mainly from grants and donations (Washtenaw County and the city of Ann Arbor both contribute). Although FLI recently formalized its educational partnership with the Ann Arbor Public Schools, it receives no funding from the school district.

The group's financial picture could improve, though, following its recent designation as a "supplemental provider" under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Among other things, the law permits students in schools that fail to make "adequate yearly progress" in improving test scores to take classes outside their local public schools. Although currently no Ann Arbor schools are deemed to be "failing" in reading, other schools in the county are, and their students could choose to attend FLI at the home district's expense. If that happens, Galimore says, FLI would negotiate a price for schools to pay.

The program plans a pause, now that its enrollment has reached 100 students, to allow its administrative systems to catch up. After that, Galimore sees plenty of potential for growth. "If we had the full capacity of staff and money," he says, "we could have easily two hundred kids." ■

CARINE LUTZ

Doris Sperling and Lefiest Galimore founded the Family Learning institute to close the "achievement gap"—and it looks as if they're succeeding. FLI's intensive literacy program boosts reading scores by one to two grade levels.

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Into the Open

Martin Contreras and Keith Orr invented a new kind of gay bar—and a bold response to bigotry that's being copied around the country.

by derek Green

In February 2001, Keith Orr received a disturbing e-mail: Fred Phelps was coming to Ann Arbor to protest a U-M gay rights event. While he was here, Phelps announced on his website, he also planned to picket the \aut\ Bar, Ann Arbor's only full-time gay and lesbian bar. Keith Orr is the bar's co-owner.

Protesters come as no surprise to the gay community. But Phelps, a self-styled minister based in Topeka, Kansas, is especially inflammatory. His website—godhatesfags.com—once offered the following comments about Matthew Shepard, the Wyoming college student who became a gay-rights martyr after being beaten to death and mutilated in 1998: "Matthew Shepard has been in hell for 910 days. . . . All the fag caterwauling, candlelight vigils, court orders, etc., can't buy Matt one drop of water to cool his tongue."

Phelps delivered his message of hate in person when Shepard was buried. He also carried picket signs at the funeral of Randy Shilts, the gay journalist who wrote the acclaimed *And the Band Played On* before dying of AIDS in 1994. Now Phelps was bringing his show to Ann Arbor.

"I thought, 'Great, like we really need this,'" Orr recalls. Phelps is adept at adding injury to insult by provoking confrontations with gays and then using the resulting conflicts to mount lawsuits against individuals and city governments. Orr worried that someone in his own community might be baited into playing Phelps's game. "It's easy to do," Orr explains. "He's so foul mouthed."

That's when Orr struck on an idea: he began e-mailing friends and customers, stating that he intended to pledge $1 to a local AIDS-awareness organization for every minute Phelps picketed the bar. Would anyone else be willing to do the same?

"Within minutes, pledges were pouring in," Orr remembers. The first came from Michigan Radio host Todd Mundt. "I immediately said, 'Count me in for a buck a minute,'" Mundt recalls. Although he had been a patron at the \aut\ Bar since just after his arrival in town, he had only recently come out publicly as a gay man—at a rally sponsored in part by the bar.

By the time Phelps arrived on February 17, word about the pledge drive was everywhere. "The bar's usually slow on a Saturday afternoon," Orr says. "But that day we were packed." While Phelps and a handful of followers carried signs reading "AIDS Is God's Curse" outside, Orr and partner Martin Contreras peddled "Phreedom from Phelps" martinis to a cheerful crowd inside. An hour later Phelps left—but not before raising over $7,500 for local AIDS charities.

"It was just one of those cool seminal moments where you see the community come together in a relatively simple way but a way that matters," Mundt says. "The event demonstrated [Orr and Contreras's] organizing ability, but also their commitment to keep the message positive—not to attack in the same way people attacked them."

"A Different kind of gay bar"

Even before Phelps came to town, the \aut\ Bar had become a focal point for Ann Arbor's gay community, providing a venue for everything from handing out AIDS awareness literature to hosting fundraisers for gay-friendly politicians. But the witty brand of counterprotest Orr and Contreras devised catapulted them to national prominence. The pledge-drive strategy they invented has been picked up by gay as well as straight organizations across the country, and it even has a name: Every Minute Counts. Both the gay and the straight press featured Contreras and Orr, turning them into Ann Arbor's most visible gay couple, and making their little bar into something of a local landmark.

"It's strange," jokes Contreras, "to find yourself to be sort of a cult figure. A friend asked us, 'Are you ready to become community leaders?' It wasn't something we planned for or anticipated."

In some ways, neither was the bar's success. Since opening in 1995, Orr and Contreras have created a space that not only brings together the often contentious subgroups of the gay and lesbian world but also has become a bridge to the straight community. The task hasn't always been easy.

"We wanted a gathering place for, as we put it, men and women of the gay community, their friends, and family," Orr recalls. But what attracts one of those groups doesn't necessarily work for another. "We've learned by trial and error. We listen to our customers," Orr continues. "Even we've been surprised with the degree to which the bar appeals to people of quite different backgrounds."

Their success owes a lot to the ability Orr and Contreras have to walk the tightrope among the very different constituencies that make up their clientele. It's an art they manage with charm, surprising

Contreras (left above) and Orr never set out to be Ann Arbor's best-known gay couple. But they won national attention when Fred Phelps came to town hoping to pick a fight—and instead raised over $7,500 for AIDS charities.

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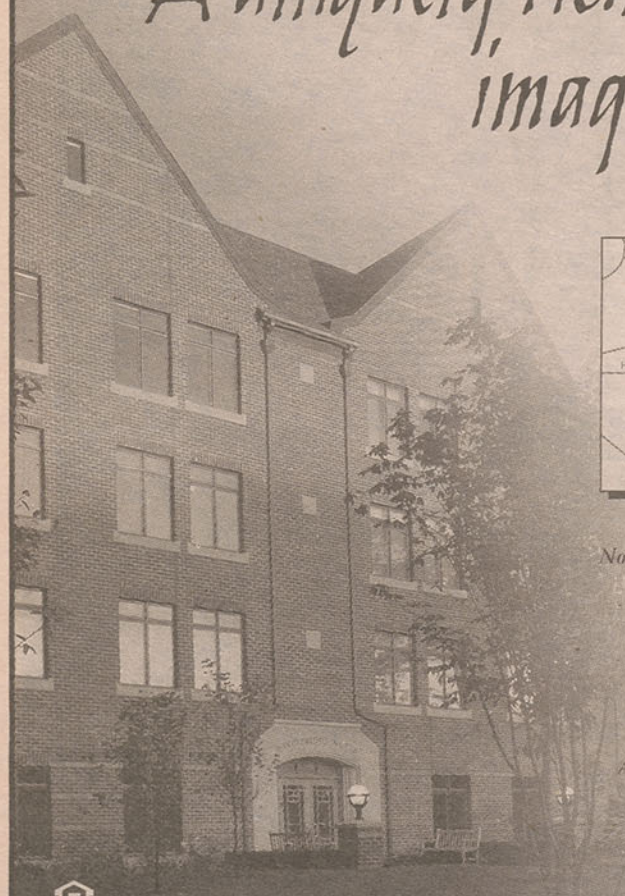

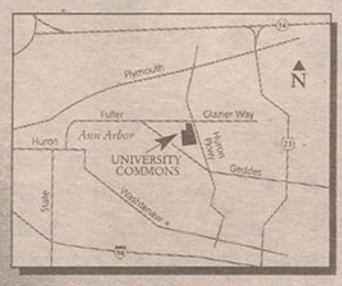

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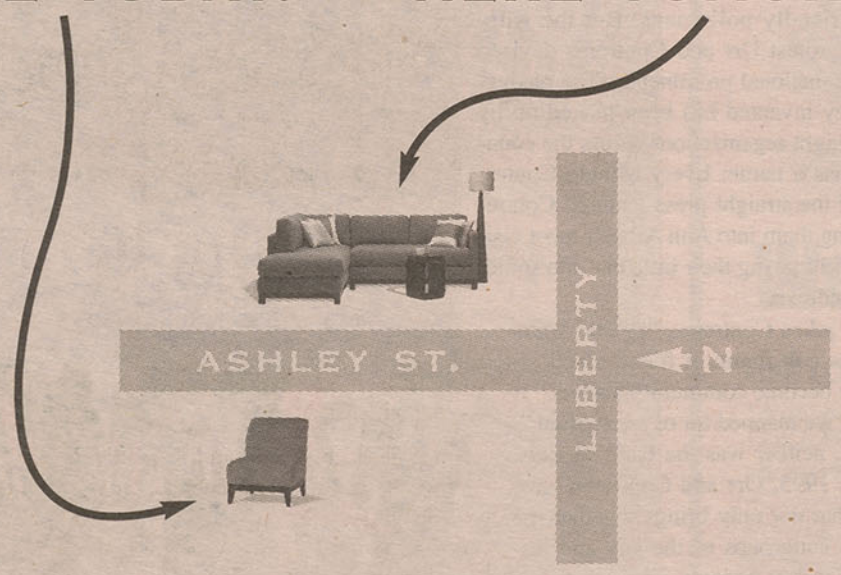

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Into the Open *continued*

shrewdness, and an always present sense of humor. The \aut\ Bar, in fact, is largely an extension of its owners' tolerant and open personalities.

"We knew that we wanted to open a different kind of gay bar," says Contreras. "Historically, gay bars have been gathering places for the gay community. But for a lot of reasons, they've also been dark and dingy. You become your environment. We wanted something with a gay sensibility but with openness and light."

Their hopes were complicated by an almost nonexistent budget and by the history of the place. For many years they had operated a Mexican restaurant, La Casita de Lupe, in the same space. The location itself was unusual: Braun Court, a group of small restaurants in a cluster of converted houses on North Fourth Avenue, across from the Farmers' Market.

"We knew that we didn't want to close La Casita, give it a new paint job, and open a gay bar the next day," Contreras says. Something similar had already been tried in the early 1990s, when a local Chinese restaurant was converted overnight into a gay bar and immediately failed. And they certainly didn't want to imitate the town's long-standing gay bar, the Flame, which had been badly neglected by its straight owners toward the end of its life.

Late in the spring of 1995, Contreras and Orr brought architect Betsy Williams in to help plan the makeover. She and furniture designer John Baird spent hours with the partners, discussing their vision for their bar and drawing up preliminary sketches.

"They kept saying over and over that they wanted light and openness," Williams recalls, "a place where they could gather with friends—not only gay men, but the entire community."

The collaboration resulted in an elegant design with a different feeling on each floor. Downstairs there's a jaunty, surfboard-shaped bar and fixtures with soft edges. The idea, Orr says, is to make the space "intimate and inviting" for customers who want to talk over dinner or drinks. Upstairs is for dancing and mingling. Materials there are hard edged, and the layout is more open, with bar tables that appear to float over a connecting stairway, so that "even sitting at the bar or a table you're at eye level with someone standing next to you," says Orr.

Perhaps the most unusual feature is that the small building has three separate entrances, one in front, another near the back, and a third that opens directly onto the clublike second floor. The result is a sort of three-dimensional in-and-out scheme that lends a feeling of openness and free-flowing traffic—with none of the front-door bottlenecks that plague other busy bars.

"People feel free to come and go as they please," Orr says. "We've never charged a cover, so we don't need to monitor who's coming and going. That's how we want it. We figure only something like ten percent of our customers come in through the official front entrance."

LARIMÉ PHOTOGRAPHIC

In designing the bar, architect Betsy Williams recalls, Orr and Contreras "kept saying over and over that they wanted light and openness."

Bridging communities

The partners knew they couldn't afford to stay closed long—just three months from gutting La Casita de Lupe to opening the \aut\ Bar. Orr recalls returning one night to what was then still La Casita to find that Contreras and a few friends had begun demolishing the upstairs dining room. "I thought to myself, 'Well, it's real,' " he remembers. " 'We're really doing this now.' "

But they also knew that no one had really ever done what they were proposing to do: offer a single establishment to accommodate the vastly different groups of the gay-lesbian world. "Most gay bars are niche businesses in big cities," explains Contreras. "There are leather bars, there are dyke bars. We were something new."

The name the gay community in general has adopted in recent years, LGBTQ, gives a clue to the uphill battle facing the partners. The letters stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning. Each group is separated from the others by different styles and sensibilities and even political agendas. Could a single venue appeal to them all? "Don't forget," Orr adds, "we also planned a place where people could bring their straight family members and friends!"

The problem was reflected in their struggles to find a suitable name for the bar. By June 1995 demolition of La Casita de Lupe was already done and renovation for the new bar well under way, yet no one had been able to decide what to call it.

"My God, we had so many ideas," says Contreras, "almost all of them bad." He laughs as he lists some of the early frontrunners: Dog Day Afternoon, the Anvil, the Torch. "One thought we had was Queers! Where Everybody Knows Your Name."

"It was already time to start advertising," Orr says, "and here we were without a name." So one night, when he and Contreras went for dinner to the home of close friends, "I took this list of two hundred names to the table and said, 'Tonight, no more brainstorming. We're going to settle on a name.' "

The friends were graphic artist Jim Mimnaugh and U-M Hospital patient relations specialist David Clark. "They had all these names," says Mimnaugh. "They were really agonizing over it. One Martin liked was An Evening by the Park. Really awful stuff. We were going crazy with this. Then David came out of the kitchen with a platter of fried chicken."

Clark picks up the story. "I put the platter on the table and said, 'It really sounds like what you're doing is trying to capture the whole concept of being out. Why don't you just call it the Out Bar?' "

A stunned silence followed. "We knew right then that was it," Orr says. But nagging doubts remained. Would there be complaints from other gay ventures, like *Out* magazine, for example? Contreras was driving to Detroit a few days later when he cell-phoned home with a final brainstorm. He asked Orr to find a dictionary and look up the phonetic spelling of *out*.

"There it was," Orr says, " 'aut,' complete with the diacritical markings and everything. One of the definitions listed was 'into the open.' " Within hours Orr had designed a logo, and the \aut\ Bar was born.

The windows had been papered over throughout the renovation, so curious passersby could only guess at what was going in to replace the former Mexican restaurant. Now Orr began to run teasers in the gay press, big ads printed with just the word "aut."

"No one had any idea what 'aut' meant," Orr says. "By the time we actually started running ads saying we were a gay bar, there was this great buzz going. When we finally opened, there was literally a line out the door for people waiting to get in."

An incidental effect of the name is that since its opening the bar has held a bit of mystique even among the general population. The \aut\ Bar, for instance, offers a Sunday brunch, a holdover from La Casita de Lupe days, that has a downright family feel to it.

"We describe our place as 'straight friendly,' " Contreras says with a smile, "and that's fine." But, he says, the \aut\ Bar is "first and foremost a gay bar. It was something we intended to be for and of our community."

Their policy of inclusiveness hasn't gone untested. Orr and Contreras recall the time they were approached by the local chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, the national organization of gay Republicans, to host a fund-raiser. "We were, like,

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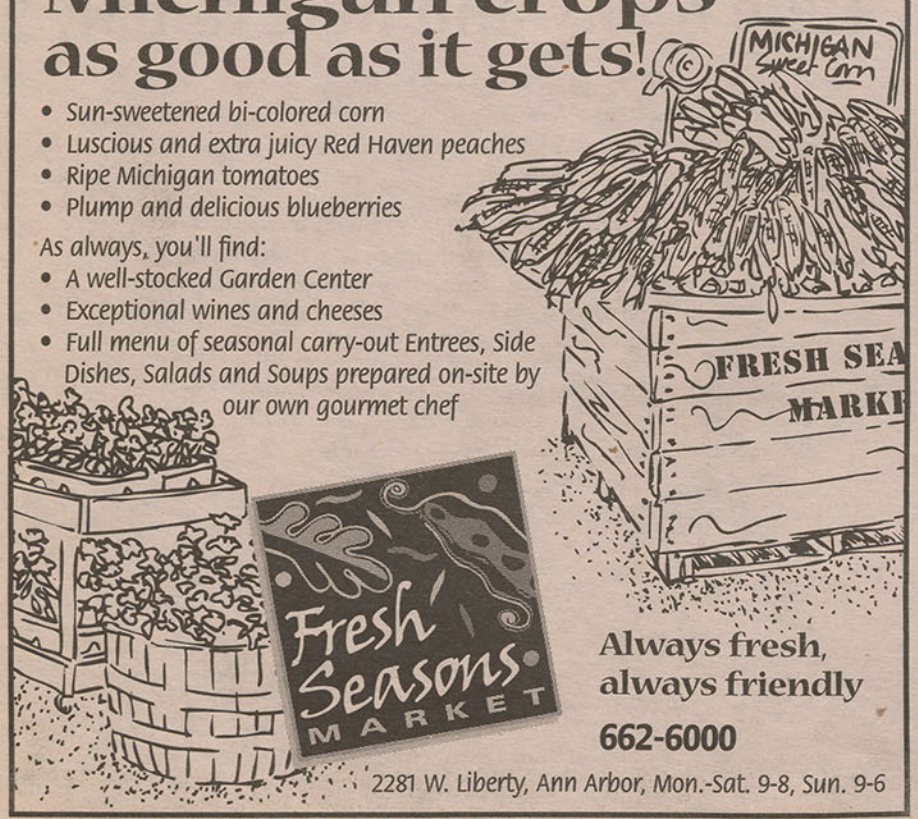

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Into the Open *continued*

'Well . . . ,'" Orr recalls. But they decided to stick to their concept, and the event went ahead. "Just the fact that they exist is a good sign," Orr says. "Not that many people showed up, but the ones who did said they had a good time."

Now that the \aut\ Bar is established, its success seems to have been almost inevitable. But Contreras and Orr's personal story is another matter. It's a tale of ups and downs and last-minute comebacks, often in the face of staggering adversity, played out against the dark years of the AIDS crisis.

Contreras with his mother, Guadalupe, in 1986. When he first came out, he recalls with a laugh, "my mom blamed Ann Arbor and the university for making me gay."

Coming out

In 1977 Contreras moved to Ann Arbor from southwest Detroit to study at the U-M. He and two siblings had been raised in Detroit's Mexicantown neighborhood and had grown up working in the kitchen of a sub shop owned by their mother, Guadalupe. By the mid-1980s Guadalupe was ready to ease up on her workload. Martin decided to help her open a small restaurant in Ann Arbor so that she could be nearer to him in semiretirement. They settled on a space in Braun Court, Peter Allen's then new development, and called the new restaurant La Casita de Lupe, using a Spanish diminutive of Guadalupe's name.

Earlier, in 1979, Contreras had met a woman and become engaged to her. But he found himself "dragging my feet about getting married. Even I wasn't sure, at the time, why." Eventually he came to grips with the fact that he was gay. Then he had to tell others.

"My fiancée had a lot of courage," he says. "She wished me well, and we remained on friendly terms for years afterward." His mother took it harder. "She had never been religious," Contreras recalls. "But when I told her I was gay, she actually went to see a priest!

"My mom blamed Ann Arbor and the university for making me gay," he continues with a laugh. Was telling the truth difficult? "Of course," he admits. "But so was living a lie. It's a strange thing, because you can hide being gay. I couldn't hide being a Hispanic male, for instance. But being gay, you can. I just decided I wasn't going to pretend anymore."

By the time his mother moved to Ann Arbor to open La Casita de Lupe, she had come to terms with her son's sexuality. The restaurant opened in May 1986. But the day before the opening, Guadalupe Contreras was diagnosed with cancer. She died the following January.

"I inherited a lot of loans and promissory notes," Martin says. "My mother had invested her whole life savings" in the venture. Contreras decided to put his physical therapy career on hold to run the restaurant. Any other decision, he says, "would have wiped out her legacy. It was a very melancholy opening."

Difficult as it was, the death of his mother wasn't the only pressure on Contreras: he was also being sued. According to Contreras, Allen had reneged on several promises to his tenants, including a common liquor license. In response Contreras had begun to escrow the monthly rent due on La Casita, prompting the lawsuit from Allen. Contreras (and several other tenants) filed a countersuit.

"We were a young business," Contreras recalls. "We had twenty thousand dollars in legal fees alone." In the end, the bank foreclosed on Braun Court—but La Casita de Lupe, as the only tenant that had escrowed rent, stayed in business. What's more, Contreras had the opportunity to buy the space at foreclosure rates—if he could execute his first-right-of-refusal option within two weeks.

"The problem was we had no money," Contreras says. "But we had put in all this sweat equity, and we put a business plan together" to buy the building. In what he describes as a Hail Mary deal, Contreras found an investor who bought three of the houses and then sold La Casita back to Contreras—all within two weeks. It was the first of several shrewdly seized opportunities that mark his somewhat accidental business career.

Marrying into the business

By the time the lawsuit was resolved, Contreras and Orr had met and were a couple. "I married into the business," Orr deadpans.

He had come to the U-M School of Music to study classical bass performance. Unlike Contreras, Orr says he had understood he was gay for most of his life—although he wasn't always aware of how to define what he was. He recalls being eleven and reading about the suicide of Beatles manager Brian Epstein in *Newsweek,* which described Epstein as an "avowed homosexual": "I read it and I realized, well, that's what it's called. That's the word for it."

At sixteen he told two of his closest

PHOTO SUZANNE COLES-KETCHAM

childhood friends he was gay. When he did, he remembers, their reactions were surprisingly cold, and the subject was quickly dropped. Years later, he found out that both of his friends had come out as well. "You find that sometimes the worst homophobes are gay people," Orr remarks.

According to Orr and Contreras, most homosexual men and women come out in phases: first they acknowledge it to themselves, then to friends, then to family, and finally to the rest of the world. Both agree that coming out is a sort of "rite of passage" for gays. It's also an ongoing event. "When you walk up to the front desk at a hotel together and they ask, " 'Two kings or two full-size beds?' " Contreras says, "and you say you just want a single bed, you're sort of coming out all over again."

Orr and Contreras steered La Casita de Lupe through its best years in the early 1990s together. But Contreras also makes it a point to mention another friend who was "very much a part of the creation of La Casita de Lupe" before he met Orr: his first gay partner, Mark Brigance.

Contreras and Brigance met in Kalamazoo in 1982 and moved in together in Ann Arbor later that year. At about the same time a mysterious disease had begun affecting young gay men, first in San Francisco and New York City, then in other major urban centers, and finally, it seemed, everywhere.

"countless friends"

In 1982 the mysterious killer was named AIDS—acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Two years later researchers announced that they had isolated the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) as its cause. The first diagnostic HIV antibody test was introduced in 1985.

"It just jumped out of nowhere," Orr remembers of the dark early 1980s. "There was this disease out there. No one seemed to know anything about it—whatever *was* known was disseminated through the gay community."

Both Orr and Contreras agree that the disease had a "galvanizing effect" on their community. "We started looking out for each other," Contreras says. Suddenly, it seemed, everyone knew someone who was sick or dying.

"Buddy systems were formed" to care for the most critically ill, Orr recalls. "This was kind of unique to the gay community. When other diseases hit, it was usually the family that took care of you." But many families hadn't faced the fact that one of their members was gay, let alone dying of a terrifying disease no one understood. "Often it was friends or lovers who ended up caring for someone," Orr continues.

When the victims died, though, the surviving partners got a fast education in their legal rights: they had none. Often, "family members would come in and sweep away a body," Orr recalls. "We probably wouldn't even be talking about gay marriage today if it weren't for the AIDS crisis.

"All of us lost countless friends," he goes on. "There were so many. Sometimes you would run into someone you hadn't seen in a while, and it would be a surprise—'You're alive!'—because you just assumed otherwise."

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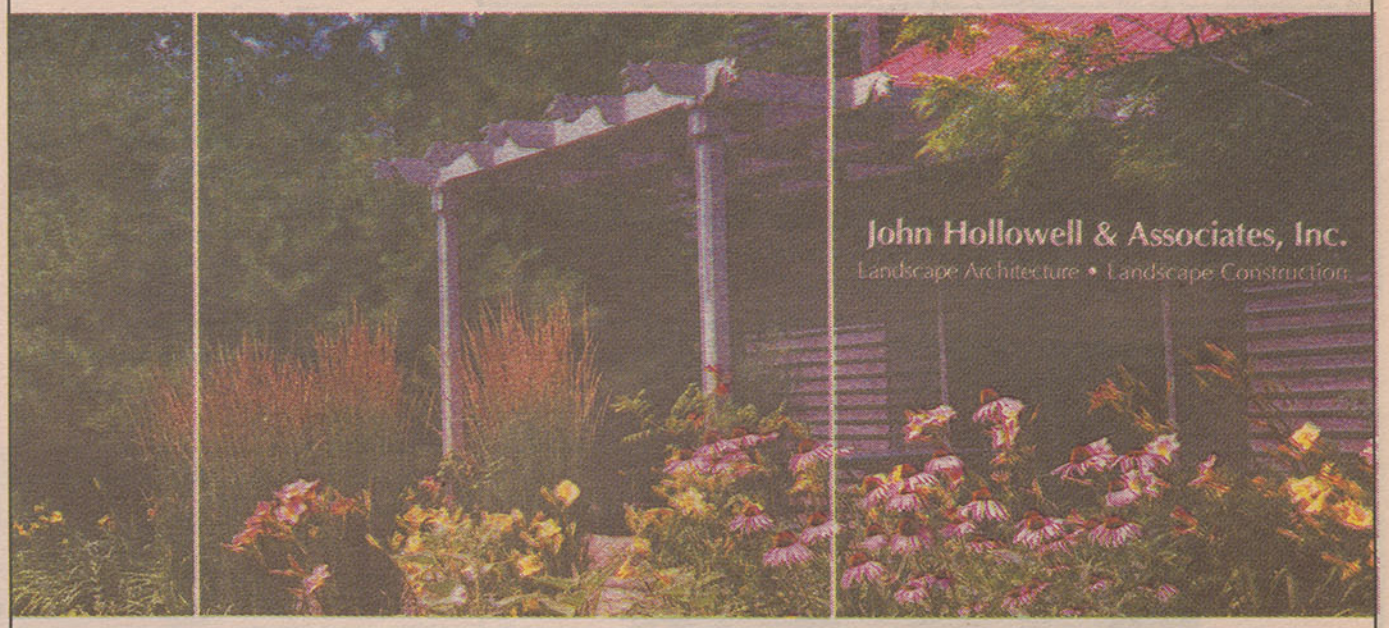

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Into the Open *continued*

As understanding of AIDS spread, Contreras says, he became a "big advocate of safe sex." But for many, it was already too late. In 1985, soon after the test became available, he and Brigance were tested for the HIV antibody. Contreras's results came back negative. Brigance was positive.

"I had a sense of guilt," Contreras says. "At the same time, there was this dread—of waiting for the other shoe to fall, for me to find out I had it."

For a long time Brigance remained in reasonably good health. Although they had been drifting apart as a couple for some time and had already stopped living together, he and Contreras continued to take care of friends who fell ill. Contreras also made a promise: he would take care of Brigance when he became sick.

Contreras and Orr began their relationship in August 1986. According to Contreras, Brigance was being treated with an early version of AZT therapy at levels considered toxic by today's standards. "He had periods of illness," Contreras says, "but he would come back. He enjoyed life. Then he got really sick."

> Keith Orr was invited in July to join the national finance committee of Howard Dean's presidential campaign. He believes he came to Dean's attention in large part because of Fred Phelps.

Brigance developed full-blown AIDS in the fall of 1987. "I went and scooped him up from his apartment and took him to the U-M Hospital," Contreras remembers. When he was discharged, Contreras moved him back into the townhouse they had shared earlier. "Keith and I sort of put our relationship on hold," Contreras says. "He took care of day-to-day business at the restaurant while I took care of Mark." When Brigance died in December 1988, Contreras was twenty-nine, and Brigance was thirty-one.

Asked how they account for having survived the early years of the AIDS epidemic themselves, Orr and Contreras both shake their heads.

"Just dumb luck at first," Orr says. "No one knew what the disease was or how it was transmitted." But that's not the case now, he says, adding that he never takes being HIV negative for granted. "Due diligence," he says. "You need to protect yourself and your friends."

It's a message he and Contreras preach regularly. "The younger community didn't experience the early years of the AIDS crisis," he says, pointing out that that holds for both gay *and* straight young people. "They sometimes think of it as a problem that affected 'older' gay men." It's an attitude, he insists, that no one can afford.

A night \aut\

It's Thursday night at the \aut\ Bar, and the main bar downstairs is crowded. There's music playing down here, but it's hard to make out exactly what, over the conversation and laughter. As they are most nights, Contreras and Orr are somewhere in the crowd, meeting and greeting, and helping out their staff during rushes. Everyone seems to know them and stops with an anecdote or handshake.

It's a decidedly mixed crowd. At the far end of the bar from where I'm sitting, a group of men and women—some seated, some standing—order drinks and listen as one of their party tries to tell a presumably funny story over his own loud laughter. Beside me a man has settled down over beer and a Mexican dish that's tempting me to order food myself. Despite the din, the man is somehow managing to read a paperback book.

"Oh, this is pretty typical for this time of night," says Terry McClymonds. It's just after 10 p.m. McClymonds has been the regular Thursday night bartender for about six years. I ask for his take on the bar crowd. Gay-lesbian? Straight? In- or out-of-towners? "There used to be a time when I knew almost *every*one" frequenting the bar, he answers. "It's pretty mixed tonight. Of course, we haven't even started to get really busy."

In the dining room behind me, most of the tables are filled with a lateish dinner crowd. It's a warm night; in the courtyard fronting the bar, another group sits at outside tables under torch lighting. A waitstaff of mostly young men covers the floor.

McClymonds has put out the word that I'm hoping to interview a few customers. One of the women at the end of the bar calls down that she'll talk to me. She identifies herself as Sherry, and we carry on a truncated interview across three or four other patrons.

"Why do I come here?" she asks. She holds her hands up in an all-encompassing gesture. "It's fun. Why else would I come?"

Does she identify herself as a lesbian? She—and a couple of the men and women with her—get a laugh out of the question. "Well," she says, "what do you think?"

That's as far as the interview gets, though, because one of the men between us, Jim, is telling me that he has just returned from a trip out of town with a friend. The friend went home, but Jim stopped by "to see the boys," he says. "The place has evolved quite a bit over the years."

I say the crowd seems fairly tame tonight.

"Well," he says, almost apologetically, "give it some time. It'll get a little wilder."

I'm thinking of his words when I head upstairs an hour or so later. It's smoky up here, with the lighting a few notches lower than the mellow dinner glow downstairs, and people seem more intent on meeting each other than a reporter. Couples—men and men, women and women—dance to disco music pumped loud from a wall-mounted jukebox in the corner. In an adjoining room, men crowd around a pool table where a game of eight ball is under

way, giving the feel of an urban pool-hall bar.

Back downstairs, Orr and Contreras have left for the night, but the bar has become even busier. Terry's found a couple of people whom I might want to interview. Tim Wojnar and Julie Bross have driven from just outside of Cleveland to visit the place. Isn't that sort of a long drive for a straight couple to visit a gay bar?

Although neither of them lives in Ann Arbor, Bross explains, they happened to meet in town a year before and came to the \aut\ Bar for a date.

"To be honest," Wojnar says, "we didn't know it was a gay bar then. We just came because it looked cool."

"Occasionally," Bross adds, "we come to Ann Arbor just for fun. We always stop here for dinner.

"Of course you can see it's a gay bar," she continues. "It's cool, and it's friendly. So why *would* we go anyplace else?"

Into the future

With the \aut\ Bar established and Contreras and Orr's own star rising, many people in town wonder what direction the pair will head next. A hint came in June when they announced that they had bought the bookstore Common Language, on South Fourth Avenue.

Previous co-owner Linda Kelly had built the store into one of the region's premier gay and lesbian bookshops, but she'd become burned out and was looking around for possible buyers. "When Martin and Keith expressed interest," she says, "it was, like, I couldn't think of anyone better. It was a perfect match."

Orr and Contreras don't plan on turning Common Language into an \aut\ Bar offshoot, pointing out that the store already has a strong identity and a national reputation. According to Contreras, one thing that will carry over to Common Language is the \aut\ Bar's marketing approach, aiming to serve the entire GLBTQ population—and even some straight readers. They also plan to turn the bookstore's lower level into a space for readings, poetry slams, and the like.

In recent months there have been some rumors that the pair may be thinking of taking their bar's concept beyond Ann Arbor. Should friends of the \aut\ Bar be getting ready for a visit to Madison or Berkeley?

In unison, Contreras and Orr roll their eyes. "Not in the immediate future," says Orr. Then he smiles quickly and adds, "But I wouldn't rule anything out."

Orr was invited in July to join the national finance committee of Howard Dean's presidential campaign. He believes he came to Dean's attention in large part because of Fred Phelps. As governor of Vermont, Dean signed the state's civil union bill, which extended marital rights to same-sex couples—and was attacked by Phelps as a result.

Orr likes Dean's progressive politics, so "of course I said yes." But the experience has him beginning to think that he and Contreras may yet end up playing a leadership role in the larger gay community. "Things do keep happening," he says, "in ways that never cease to amaze me." ■

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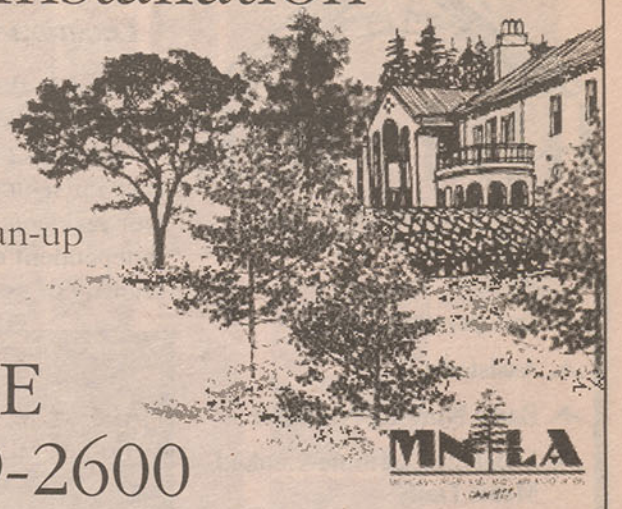

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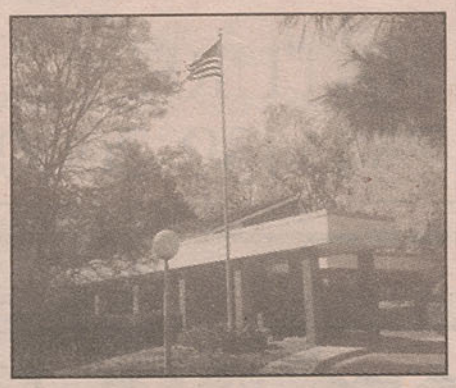

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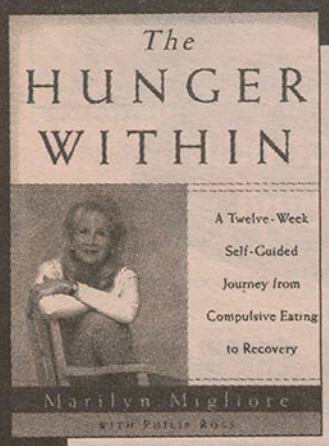

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BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS

by Susan Todoroff

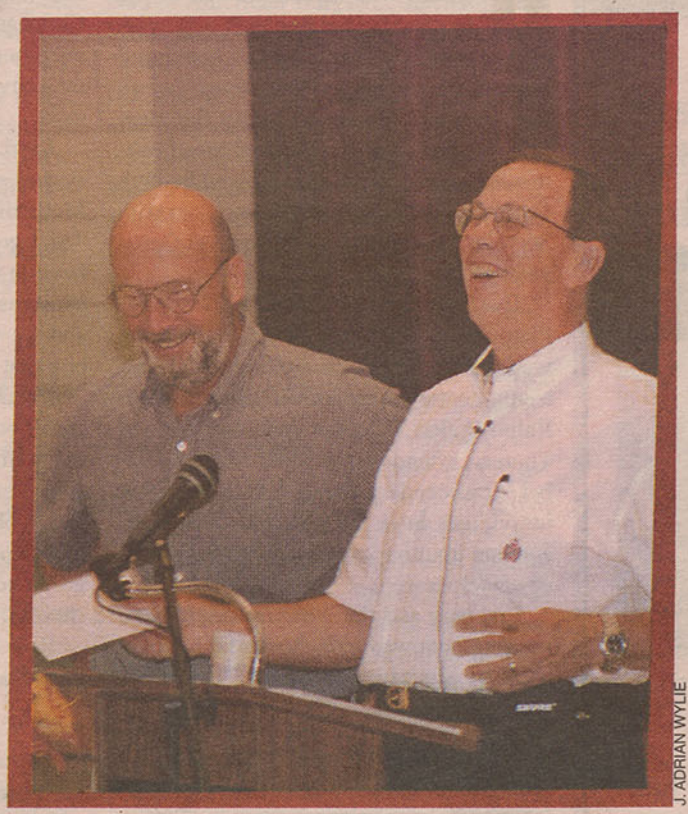
At local interfaith congregations, members draw on everything from the Bible to Native American beliefs to blaze new spiritual paths.

Eighteen years ago, Dave Bell and his wife, Judy, were watching their daughter perform in the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at Interlochen music camp, when suddenly an overwhelming sensation flowed through him.

"One minute I was sitting there enjoying the music, and the next minute I was engulfed in tears and had this understanding," explains Bell. "I just knew something that I hadn't even conceived of before that moment . . . that there was this matrix of magnificence underneath everything . . . and it was just whether you choose to see it or not. I was stunned."

That "borderline mystical experience" led Bell to reevaluate his life, launching him on an extended spiritual quest that eventually changed him from a "card-carrying atheist" to an ordained interfaith minister. Unlike a traditional minister, priest, or rabbi who preaches one faith and one doctrine, an interfaith minister seeks to learn about, respect, and appreciate a diversity of paths to God, and to look for the universal truths contained in each. Positive and nonjudgmental, local interfaith congregations like Bell's are attracting growing numbers of followers.

To some religious fundamentalists, on the other hand, the trend is deeply troubling. Bell once received a phone call from a minister of a local traditional church in reaction to a small advertisement he'd placed in the *Ann Arbor News*. "Religious pluralism" was the accusation from the disturbed minister. "Like it was a nasty word," says Bell, incredulously.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

A "borderline mystical experience" led Dave Bell (right, with congregant Fred Sauer) to become an ordained interfaith minister.

A former attorney in Ann Arbor for thirty years, Bell, now sixty, describes his pre-Interlochen self as a "logical, left-brain workaholic and alcoholic." Living in a 4,200-square-foot house with a Ferrari in the garage, Bell says, "I was just showing off. . . . I had absolutely nothing to do with the realm of spirit. I literally thought at the time that people who were engaged in religious endeavors were, frankly, just a little deficient."

Bell attended church as a child, but by the time he was a teen skepticism had settled in, and it didn't leave. He gave up church and any thoughts of religion for over twenty-five years, until his experience at Interlochen. That, he says, set him "off on a ten-to-twelve-year jaunt to rediscover something that I could intellectually allow into my conscience. I had to find a way back to spirituality that didn't involve checking your brain at the door."

Bell read books on mysticism and spirituality, and found some solace as a Unity Church member. He says he seriously considered becoming a Unity minister but was discouraged by the "power structures" he encountered. Then, in a magazine called *The Course,* Bell read about an institution in New York called "The New Seminary," which offered a program to become an ordained interfaith minister.

"I picked up the phone, called the number, and this wonderful, charming elf of a man named rabbi Joseph Gelberman answered, and I fell in love with him in twenty minutes," Bell says. After his ordination in 1998, Bell founded the Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth in Ann Arbor.

The Interfaith Center now claims a membership of more than 200 people. This Sunday morning about fifty of them have gathered at Allen Elementary School to celebrate their relationship with God. "We call them celebration services, not worship services, because we don't believe that God needs us to worship her," Bell explains with a wry smile.

In the rented auditorium, three rows of folding chairs form a semicircle facing a small makeshift altar and an impressive sound system.

Bell signals the beginning of the service by ringing a Tibetan chime, and the congregation joins in the "call to celebration." Everyone stands and shouts, "I am alive, awake, alert, joyous, and enthusiastic about my life. *L'chaim* [Hebrew for 'To life']!"

Music director Laura Massaro leads the congregation in singing contemporary songs—one week John Lennon's "Imagine," another week "Stand by Me" or "Blowin' in the Wind." Massaro says she chooses music consistent with the center's messages, including "joining as one, counting our blessings, and love over fear."

There are announcements, a lengthy "sharing" akin to a mini social hour with a lot of hugging, and a beautiful sung meditation chant accompanied by soft rhythm instruments. A facilitator then leads the congregation through a peaceful spoken meditation—a soothing voice touting unconditional love.

This Sunday Bell gives the "message," comparable to a sermon, and he calls it "Wisdom of the Heart." He stands behind a lectern, wearing a sport coat, dress shirt, and vibrantly colored tie. His message is based on a book by Glenda Green, *Love without End—Jesus Speaks*. Although most of the congregation do not consider themselves traditional Christians, many do follow the teachings of Jesus, as well as other spiritual leaders.

Bell describes himself as a big fan of Jesus. "I practice the religion *of* Jesus, as opposed to practicing the religion *about* Jesus," he says. "I consider Jesus as my older, wiser brother. He was one of the first to discover and manifest his true nature, that is, the Christ, or perfect image of God." According to Bell, this image is in all of us—and that therefore we are just as much the sons and daughters of God as Jesus.

Although no two Sunday services are exactly the same, the core messages are always similar: practicing unconditional love, being nonjudgmental, looking inward to find your divine essence, and living as divine beings of God. "We are not humans having a spiritual experience—we are spir-

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BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS *continued*

itual beings having a human experience," Bell says. "God is good, and God intends only good for all of us, and we are divine beings, not miserable sinners, worms of the dust. . . . Our mission is to express unconditional love, and to forgive anyone who seems to be stepping on our toes."

Afterward, Bell passes the microphone around to those who wish to share their thoughts. The service ends with everyone joining hands in a large circle and singing the inspirational "Let There Be Peace on Earth (and Let It Begin with Me)." Each person then turns to the person on either side, gives a little bow with hands in a prayer position, and speaks the Sanskrit greeting "Namaste" ("The divinity in me salutes the divinity in you").

Although the first interfaith ministers were ordained only in 1981, the movement's exaltation of the individual was foreshadowed in the 1500s. Michael Servetus, a Spanish physician and theologian, publicly rejected original sin and argued that human beings are inherently divine—exactly the view held by Bell and most other interfaith-minded people today. Condemned by both Catholics and Calvinists as a heretic, Servetus was burned at the stake in Geneva in 1553.

Even earlier, the Greek philosopher Plato argued that we can learn about the world of the spirit through reason. Nineteenth-century American thinkers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau extended that belief under the label "transcendentalism," which held that individuals have the personal, independent, and intuitive capacity to know what is absolutely true.

Emerson and the other transcendentalists foreshadowed today's interfaith movement by studying Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Sufism, a mystical movement within Islam. Transcendentalism became a composite of Oriental, Greek, English, French, German, and Native American thought—a conglomeration of beliefs adapted to the individual.

A related movement, "New Thought," was named and developed by Maine resident Phineas P. Quimby in the 1850s. According to C. Alan Anderson and Deborah G. Whitehouse, who have written about New Thought, Quimby stressed that human experiences are a direct result of our thinking, and that God is found within. The New Thought movement also emphasizes the mystical experience of personal unity with God—the condition, Dave Bell now says, he approached that day at Interlochen.

Since 1981 more than 2,500 interfaith ministers have been ordained nationwide. Bell's Interfaith Center is the largest local congregation, but he's just one of at least half a dozen interfaith ministers in Ann Arbor. Although no two of them have exactly the same definition of "interfaith," all agree on some common factors: it is not a religion but a *respect* for all religions, and it is definitely centered in a higher spirit, which most of them call God.

A key point for many interfaith-minded people is what happens to us after we die. Most, especially those coming from a Christian background, tend to believe that everyone goes to heaven—although they may have different ideas about what heaven is.

Lorri Coburn, who helps run the sound system at Bell's Interfaith Center, grew up Methodist and, as a child, loved church. "As I got older," she says, "I couldn't believe in the strict Christian tenets that the Muslims and the Jews would all go to hell, and we would go to heaven. . . . I didn't buy that when I was a little girl, but then, as I started thinking for myself, I *really* didn't buy it." Many Christians, including many Methodists, would deny believing in a heaven-for-Christians-only; nevertheless, Coburn reports, "my friends who are born-again Christians are afraid that I'm going to hell" for joining an interfaith church.

Rod Rodriguez also helps with the sound at the Interfaith Center. He too

A "celebration service" at Bell's Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

comes from a traditionally Christian family. "All Mexicans are raised hard-core Catholics," he says, laughing. But his beliefs changed gradually as he hit his late thirties.

"In Ann Arbor . . . you get to meet so many different people . . . the Hindus and the Muslims . . . there are some great people. The more I got to know them, the more I could not believe that they are going to hell. That got me to look at their religions . . . and you were not allowed to do that in Catholicism. . . . My views expanded to encompass all the other people of the world."

"We absolutely just do not talk, ever, about saving souls," says Bell, "because if you do, you're coming from the position that souls can be lost. And I know better. They can't be lost because I know that God is at least as compassionate as I myself am, and there's no way that I'm going to condemn any soul to eternal perdition."

So what does happen when we die? "You'll get to go where you want to go, do what you want to do," Bell answers. "The soul has eternal existence."

Like Bell, Barbara McLeroy had a traditional religious upbringing. Unlike him, she never abandoned religion; she belonged to a major Protestant denomination for thirty-five years. Although she and her husband were active in their church, she says, she began to wonder twenty years ago what it meant to be a Christian, and whether she really was one, in the traditional sense.

"Try though I might, I couldn't reconcile the Old Testament God with my experience of God and Jesus' teachings of God's love," says McLeroy. In particular, she "couldn't understand how 'God's judgment' could be a part of that love. They are mutually exclusive."

McLeroy found an alternative understanding in a book called *A Course in Miracles*. A principal text for many spiritual seekers, it has sold over a million copies and spurred thousands of study groups worldwide. It was written in the early 1970s by Helen Schucman and William Thetford, two professors of medical psychology at Columbia University.

The authors (and many readers) believe *A Course in Miracles* to be divinely inspired; McLeroy calls it a "modern revelation." She welcomed its "perspective to see the physical world before us as a perception of mind projected outward," and its message that "we are meant to be wholly joyous."

McLeroy enthusiastically shared her new spiritual outlook with her church peers, but soon realized they were not receptive. Eventually McLeroy decided the respectful thing to do was be less involved in her congregation. Ordained two years ago, McLeroy now holds a monthly "light and meditation" service along with another interfaith minister, Bob Farra.

Like Bell, McLeroy found her interfaith interest dismayed friends with more traditional religious views. She says that one in particular is always trying to convert her to more fundamentalist beliefs. Her response, McLeroy says, is to "tell her how much I love her and how comfortable I am in my own exploration and leave it there. And certainly not to turn the tables and try and convert her . . . to what?" she laughs.

Susan King, fifty-one, also came to interfaith from a traditional religious background. Unlike McLeroy and Bell, King has chosen to practice her interfaith ministry within an existing church. She is both an ordained interfaith minister and a longtime member of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Ann Arbor.

Although she sometimes preaches when rector Joe Summers is out of town, King is not an ordained Episcopal priest and under church law may not preside over a Communion service. A guest priest officiates when King preaches.

Although she has extensively studied Native American religions, Judaism, and Islam, King considers herself a Christian. "I was born in the garden of Christianity," she says of her upbringing. "So to stay and deeply practice and struggle with my faith, within a garden where at least I'm familiar with the terminology, seems to me to be a wise thing to do. From that perspective, I can always learn from what it is that Jesus had to teach."

"We absolutely just do not talk, ever, about saving souls," says Bell, "because if you do, you're coming from the position that souls can be lost. And I know better."

Amy Higgins, a member of the Church of the Incarnation, appreciates King's perspective on Christianity. Higgins says she doesn't know who goes to heaven. "My strong belief as a Christian is that Christians are not taught to make that judgment," she says. "I tend to believe that there are Muslims in heaven, and every other faith, too. And God, as I know him, Jesus Christ, has found a way to offer what he has to offer to them."

In contrast to King, who says she helps her fellow parishioners "understand the Christian essence and how it can be freed from some of its doctrinal constraints," Lauren Zinn approaches interfaith from a Jewish perspective.

Born and raised in a Conservative Jewish home, Zinn still practices most Jewish traditions. Because her husband was raised as a Christian, their family has always celebrated Christian holidays as well. After becoming an ordained interfaith minister, Zinn created "Jewbilation"—a Jewish service designed to make couples of different denominations feel welcome and comfortable.

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BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS

continued

other religions believe," Zinn says. "I am not about creating a Jewish-only identity." She describes Jewbilation as "Jewish roots with interfaith wings."

The family-friendly gathering, a combination potluck dinner, children's lesson, and Jewish shabbat service, is held at Calvary United Methodist Church every other month on a Friday evening. Most songs and responses from the congregation are in Hebrew (with written translations and transliterations available), and there are prayers and verses from the weekly Torah portion.

Zinn's homilies, however, draw from many different traditions. At one service she looked at the teachings of Jesus through Jewish eyes. Drawing from Bruce Chilton's book *Rabbi Jesus*, she says, "What I did was to explain what . . . Jesus as a Jewish rabbi would have most likely meant when he offered wine and bread as a sacrifice." At another service, Zinn quoted Gandhi.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"Try though I might," says interfaith minister Barbara McLeroy, "I couldn't reconcile the Old Testament God with my experience of God and Jesus' teachings of God's love."

These are not the kind of authorities her rabbis discussed when Zinn was growing up. "They focus on only Jewish identity; that's their mission," Zinn says. "I want to offer another component to interfaith-minded families practicing Judaism."

Interfaith ministers' easy mingling of religions perplexes their more traditional colleagues. "A lot of me totally goes back to 'Do you believe the Bible to be God's inspired word?' " says Tom Robinson, a minister at Knox Presbyterian Church. "If you don't, then really it's just man's good thoughts—'Let's just come together and just agree on some things and have this nice religion that pleases everybody and is pleasant.'"

In Robinson's reading, though, "the Bible doesn't allow for that avenue of generic [religion] that we all love each other and we're all going to the same place when we die. There is a clear distinction of heaven and hell . . . those who know Christ, those who do not know Christ, which is very clear in Scripture. And that doesn't set well with a lot of people."

Pastor Gary Hirth of the Ann Arbor Baptist Church on Wagner Road speaks with the confidence and conviction of a seasoned television evangelist. He answers many questions with a story or Bible quote.

"There are three elements of God," Hirth says. "Holiness—God demands perfection. Justice—God cannot overlook sin; he must punish it. And love—but love cannot go contrary to holiness. God can't say, 'I love you, and I know you're going to sin, and technically you're not supposed to go to heaven, but I'll let you in this time.'"

Unlike Hirth and Robinson, most interfaith ministers do not see the Bible, or any other book, as the literal word of God. Dave Bell argues that even a divinely inspired text—whether it's the Bible or *A Course in Miracles*—has been influenced by the people who set it down. "Anytime you've got Spirit moving through someone . . . you're pretty much stuck with the thought patterns, the syntax, the style, the language, the thinking, the emotions of the person" writing it, he says.

Bell regards the Bible as "a historical account about people's attitudes about what went on . . . their perceptions at the

The problem of evil

Many people of faith would agree with some key principles of the International New Thought Alliance, such as its belief in one universal God, who is pure love; the power of prayer; and loving one another unconditionally. Comparatively few, however, are likely to share the New Thoughters' faith that people are inherently good.

It's called "the problem of evil": if God is benevolent and all-powerful, why does he or she allow people to hurt one another? The standard Christian answer is that everyone is free to choose between God and the devil in life—but those who persist in sin will be judged and punished in hell after death.

New Thought, however, includes neither divine judgment nor hell; most interfaith adherents believe that everyone goes to heaven (see main story). They regard evil as merely "good that is immature or misdirected," as C. Alan Anderson and Deborah G. Whitehouse put it in their book *New Thought: A Practical American Spirituality*. According to Anderson and Whitehouse, evil "has no power of its own; it has only the power that our minds give to it. . . . No matter how terrible a situation seems to be, there is always good in it, because there is always God in it, for God is everywhere and all is in God. . . . To the extent that one fails to live up to the possibilities offered by God, one produces evil."

"Evil is not a force, and there is no champion for evil," says Dave Bell. "Apparent evil is simply the acting out of fear-based thinking. It is always based upon a misperception of what is true, and is best described as a mistake or error.

"There are only two human emotions: love and fear. All other emotions stem from only these two roots. . . . Fear is a human emotion which drives us to behave in ways that are counter to our true nature. . . . Evil, therefore, is the manifestation of fear or error thinking."

—*S.T.*

time." He believes it was inspired by God but is not the word of God. "It's so internally inconsistent [that it's] not possible to call it literal truth," he says. "Otherwise, it's literally contradictory."

Fundamentalists "believe that God will get angry, and they think the devil is at work," Bell adds. "Folks of that sort are driven by fear. In a lot of circles, 'God-fearing' is a compliment. . . . That runs totally contrary to my understanding of God and the universe."

"We all see it according to our own perception," comments Barbara McLeroy. "There is absolutely no point in disagreeing. We are all right according to our perception. 'Right' is relative . . . and pointless. We could discuss until we're green—and for what? Imagine putting that energy into how we might come together in love . . . no matter what we believed. To me, that is the message of interfaith."

The Interfaith Center has been holding Sunday services at Allen School for five years (they're at Carpenter School this summer because of construction at Allen). For the past three years, members of the congregation have been on what Dave Bell calls a "vision quest" for their own building. With no initial resources, they started a building fund through contributions and various fund-raisers.

A few months ago, Bell was driving down Geddes Road in Superior Township when he saw a sign advertising twelve acres for sale. He met with the owner, who was looking to move into a smaller house. Bell ended up negotiating a deal in which the congregation would build an 1,800-square-foot house for the current owner on five and a half acres of the land; in exchange, Bell could build his Interfaith Center on the other six and a half acres.

Bell is a licensed residential builder, and within his congregation are electricians, plumbers, and an architect who can make their dream a reality. Even so, he estimates the new house will cost $110,000 to $120,000 in materials. With only $45,000 in their building fund, they'll have to hold more fund-raisers and borrow the rest. Bell figures it will take six months to build the house, and they plan to start immediately after the last contingencies on the sale are removed. He and the congregation will then move on to building their church, which they hope to complete in two to three years.

When asked where the money will come from to build the church, Bell answers, "Well, it's going to come from where it is.

"I mean that there is no shortage of money, since money is only a form of energy. Our task is to offer enough people enough of a reason to joyfully contribute to our project, so that the money necessary to accomplish our goals flows freely from where it now is to our bank accounts, so that we might pay a fair price to those who supply the labor and materials for our project.

"I don't, at this moment, know from whom such funds will arrive. I do know, that under the guidance of Spirit, adequate funds will arrive." ■

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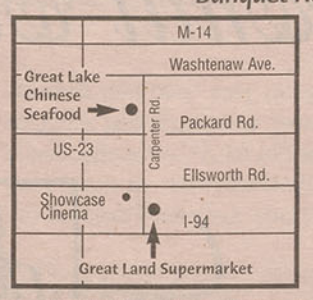

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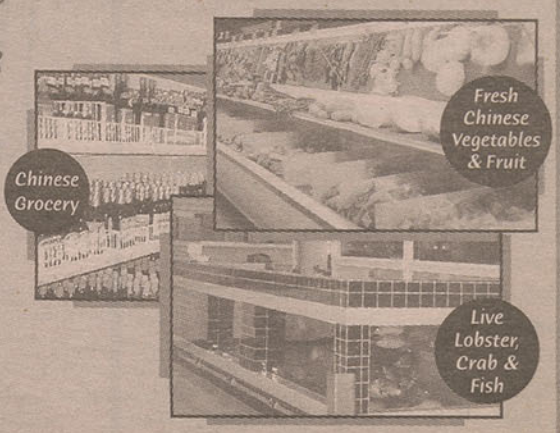

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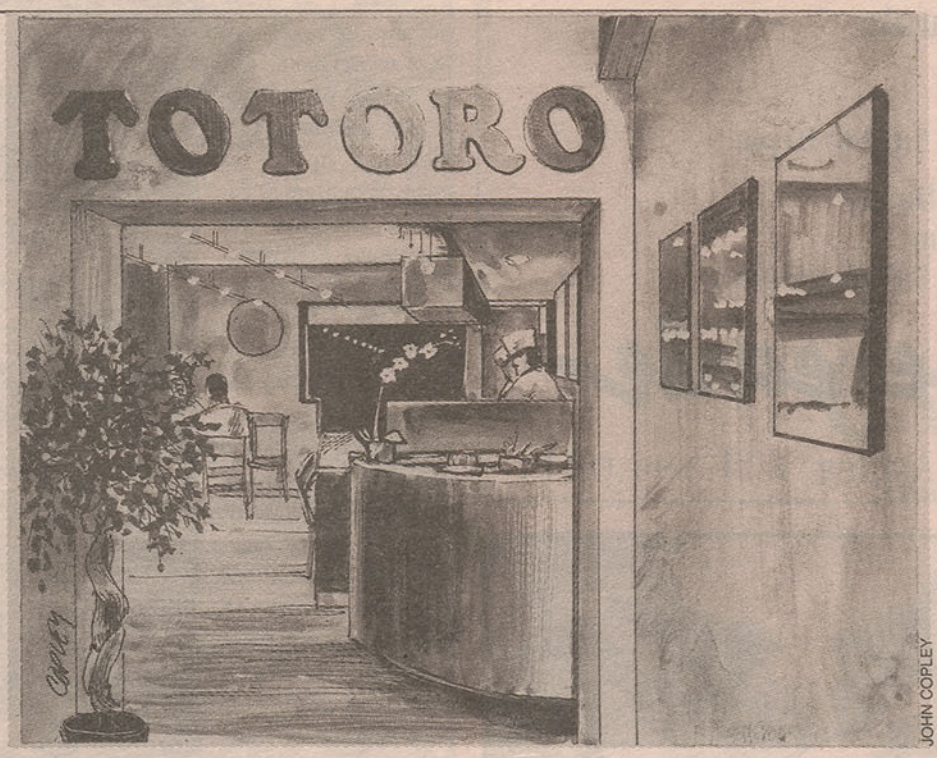
Totoro

Hidden gem

In Japan, it is common for retail stores to have the best locations—and for restaurants to be hidden behind them, sometimes down dark, confusing hallways. Often these eateries lack the simplest signs, relying on *noren* (cloth banners) placed in doorways to signal when they are open for business. The new Totoro Japanese Restaurant on State Street maintains the tradition: while it does have a sign out front, you don't actually walk through its front door till you climb some steps and pass a jumble of mailboxes in the shabby hallway alongside Kaleidoscope Books.

Totoro is the name of a beloved Japanese cartoon character, but there's nothing cartoonish about this restaurant. With gleaming hardwood floors and a granite-topped sushi bar in front of a brilliant cherry-red wall, the compact front dining room feels hip and urban; the larger seating area in back is more casual, with minimal ornamentation and loads of light on mustard-colored walls. Co-owners Jane Kim and Jun Wang created the dual atmospheres intentionally. They want Totoro to be equally attractive to students eating among their books, faculty and colleagues taking advantage of the generous lunch specials, and the rest of us coming for dinner or—my favorite—marathon sushi bingeing. Sushi prices are some of the best around, and Totoro's list of sushi is creative—head chef Akio Kamimura reports he filled the same position for fifteen years at Miki, and another sashimi master hails from New York. Whether the place is crawling with activity or the crowd has dwindled down to just a scattered few, someone behind the sushi bar always manages to greet new arrivals.



JOHN COPLEY

Sushi prices are some of the best around, and Totoro's list of sushi is creative—head chef Akio Kamimura reports he filled the same position for fifteen years at Miki, and another sashimi master hails from New York.

Yakitori (skewers of grilled chicken breast with teriyaki sauce) and *kani shumai* (steamed crab dumplings) are good starters. Our platter of *ika* (squid) tempura was consumed in short order, the delicate flecks of batter picked from the plate. Skeptics at our table were pleasantly surprised with the *agedashi,* cubes of lightly breaded tofu deep fried and served in richly flavored broth. The fried mashed potato croquettes with cream in the center are so soft you could eat them while recovering from dental surgery—but I would still order them again, simply because they're so unusual. Other rare treats include sushi rolls filled with sour plum; tempura-battered rolls wrapped with salmon, crab, or eel; and spicy tuna nachos, served on tortilla chips with a fiery sauce that hints of mayonnaise.

There are several "American style" spicy rolls (even one, called the TNT, that has slivers of jalapeño), but I loved the coolness of the "Hawaii" roll—a slice of cucumber so thin it could be a Xerox copy of the real thing, wrapped around a filling of avocado, pineapple, and crab salad

For the broadest experience, the *bento* deluxe is a complete and hearty meal. Preceded by a generous assortment of sashimi—thick slices of tender raw fish—the main attraction is a lacquered, compartmented box filled with a stunning array of tempura vegetables and shrimp, chicken and salmon teriyaki, sautéed vegetables, and a funky Japanese potato salad. Cold kidney beans with a thin coating of syrup and a Japanese-style vegetable sweet roll finish it off—and did I mention the California roll? If you are not an NBA player, consuming this gargantuan meal can be a major feat.

The *saba shioyaki,* grilled fresh mackerel, was a bit overrich, but that is the nature of this oily fish. I would have enjoyed it more, though, if the kitchen had filleted the fish for me.

For lunch one day, a friend ordered the *sansai udon,* noodle soup with slices of portobello mushrooms, onions, and carrots. As with the agedashi, the broth was as flavorful as any thick-based soup or bisque—a fact my friend noted several times while draining her bowl.

Lunch specials, like tempura udon and a California roll, vary from day to day but are always very generous. Miso soup and Totoro's fresh house salad with ginger dressing accompany meals, including orders from the sushi bar.

If you are looking for something to cleanse your palate after too much soy sauce or sea urchin, I recommend the mango sherbet. It's so tropical tasting, it should come with one of those little paper umbrellas. The chocolate mousse cake is rich, yet light—I regretted offering to share it.

Service is fairly consistent for a new restaurant, and the staff is accommodating and helpful. One shortcoming: three of the four servers we encountered brought us our bills prematurely. It's a minor slip, and I probably wouldn't even mention it—except that Totoro isn't the kind of place I am ever going to be in a hurry to leave.

—Elizabeth Méricas

Totoro Japanese Restaurant
215 South State 302–3511
Mon.–Sat. 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m.,
Sun. 4–9:30 p.m.

Appetizers $1.50–$8.50, salads $1.50–$8.95, *bentos* or noodles $6.95–$18.95, lunch dishes $6.95–$8.95, entrees $10.50–$14.50

Pelagos Taverna

It's a start

I told my editor months ago that I wanted to review Pelagos Taverna as soon as it opened. I was thrilled to have a new Greek restaurant in town, and I was curious about how the management would redecorate to erase the memory of the former occupants. (Even though it was two restaurants and some empty space ago, Sweet Lorraine's is still very much associated with the basement location at 303 Detroit.) Turns out they've repainted in cool blues and greens, with stylized dolphins painted on the walls in place of Lorraine's zaftig naked ladies. The transformation is so complete, it's as if Pelagos isn't a new

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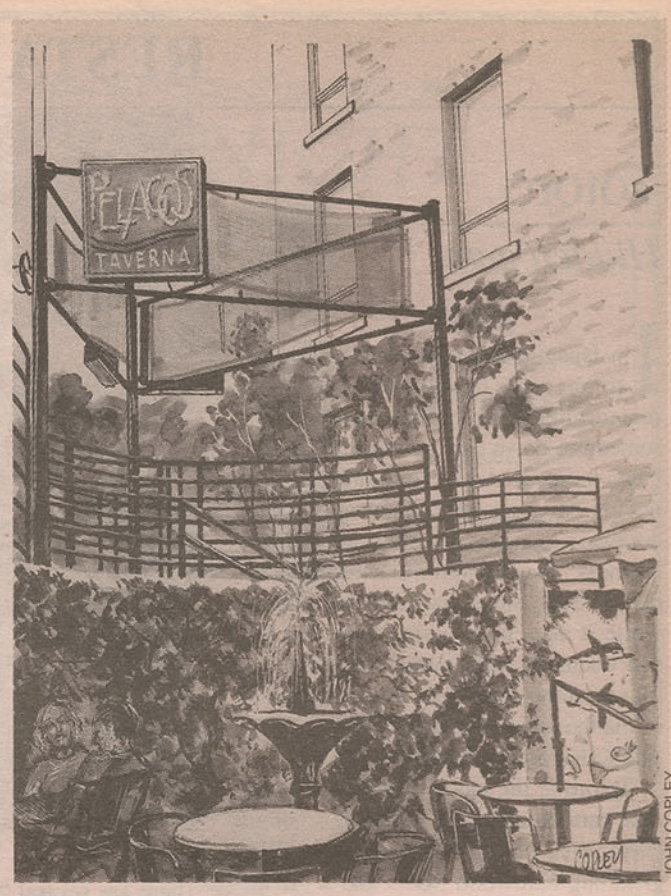

JOHN COPLEY

restaurant at all, but was always there.

In keeping with Greek tradition, Pelagos has nearly as many appetizers as entrees. You can get everything from *saganaki* (the fried cheese of "Opa!" fame) to mussels to stuffed grape leaves. My favorites, however, were the creamy dips, and the absolutely divine pita bread that went with them. Good *satziki* (yogurt-cucumber dip) is essential to Greek cooking. Pelagos's satziki, with its perfect balance of tartness and garlic, combined with the warm-from-the-oven pitas brushed with olive oil, had me dreaming of the Mediterranean. The hummus was wonderfully thick and flavorful, and the olive pâté, seasoned with garlic and herbs, tasted like the concentrated essence of all things olive. The red pepper pâté, pungent with feta cheese, also disappeared fast at our table.

The calamari got a mixed reaction: I would have preferred a less heavily seasoned and breaded version, but my dinner companions loved it. The spanakopita—phyllo dough filled with spinach and feta—tasted neither too cheesy nor too full of spinach. Lovely.

Our servers, though clearly inexperienced, were friendly and prompt. I was having a wonderful time until we got to the soups and the bottom fell out of the meal. Both the egg lemon soup and the lentil soup of the day were cold—cold and bland.

And the soup was a harbinger of worse things to come. As a reviewer and food lover, I hate to dismiss an entire menu out of hand, but all eight entrees I tried suffered from one problem or another, from overcooking (chicken Corfu, pork souvlakia) to undermarinating (the souvlakia again) to blandness (*pastitsio,* sea bass) to being just plain not good (traditional moussaka). The best thing I tried was a vegetarian moussaka, and I'm not sure that's even Greek. The worst—chicken Corfu—was completely inedible. A dried-out chicken breast was stuffed with spinach and cheese, which I ate out of the center, leaving the rest.

Desserts are mainly Mediterranean mainstays, such as baklava and rice pudding. Probably the oddest dessert is plain homemade yogurt drizzled with honey and walnuts. I'd eat that for breakfast, maybe, but it didn't go over well after dinner.

I do not know how a restaurant that makes such good appetizers could fail so utterly with nearly everything else. Perhaps it's because many appetizers are made ahead and aren't rushed by the press of hungry diners. Perhaps it's because dip and spread recipes are more forgiving. Either way, the next time I go to Pelagos, I will sit at the bar, drink a glass of wine, and order appetizers, treating them like tapas. Then I'll leave, completely happy, knowing my evening is off to a good start.

—Margaret Yang

Pelagos Taverna Greek Restaurant
303 Detroit Street 213–9100
Mon.–Thurs. 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m.,
Fri. & Sat. 11:30 a.m.–midnight,
Sun. noon–10 p.m.

Appetizers $3.95–$7.95, entrees $7.95–$18.95, desserts $3.50–$4.50

Quick Bites

On summer weekends and around dinnertime, long lines form in front of the Dairy Queens on Packard and on Stadium, near the screen door at Kilwin's downtown, or—for gelato aficionados—at Zingerman's Next Door. At **Icescapes,** on Washtenaw between Golfside and Hewitt, there's a line, too—but it's made up of cars at the drive-up window. The attractions run from a copious selection of dairy-free, fat-free, and cholesterol-free Italian ices to soft ice creams with toppings galore, plus shakes and smoothies. For a major "frozen head," try the mango ice chiller with bananas and peaches or the chocolate malt twister in a cup. Icescapes also offers walk-up service with outside seating, and packs quarts and half gallons for takeout. Not sure what you want? Ask for a sample.

—E.M.

Got a restaurant comment or a tip for Quick Bites? Send e-mail to ASquareEat @aol.com.

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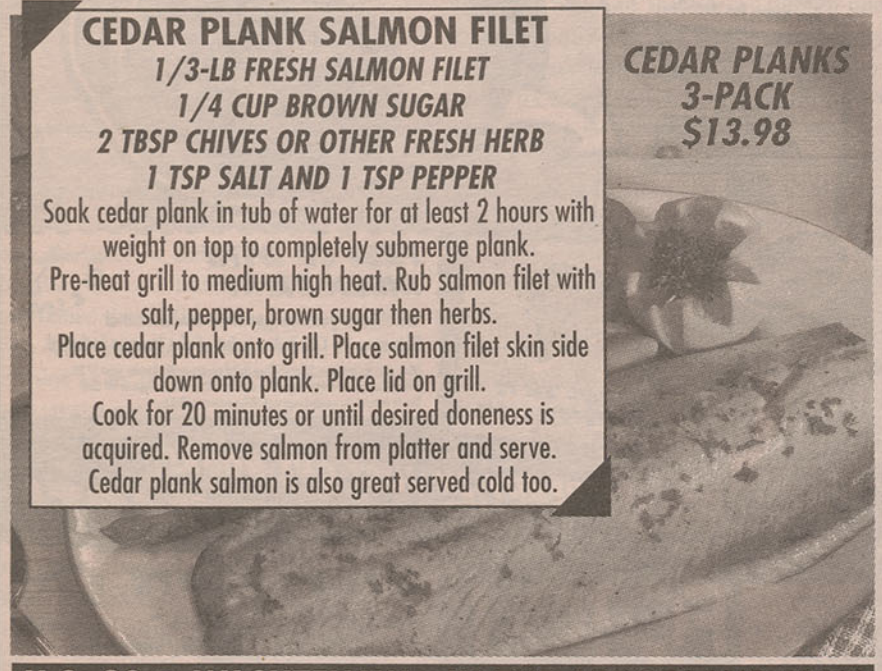

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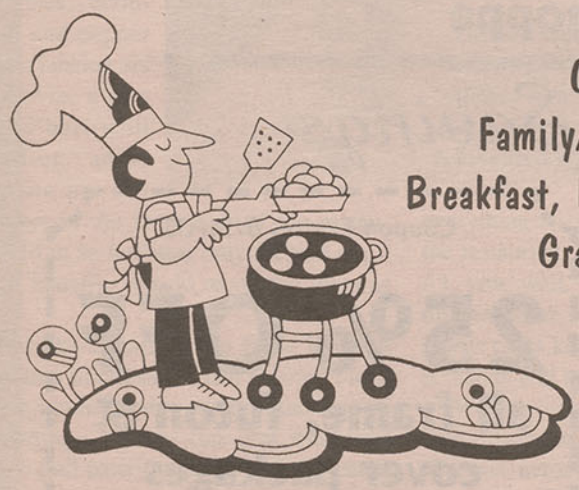

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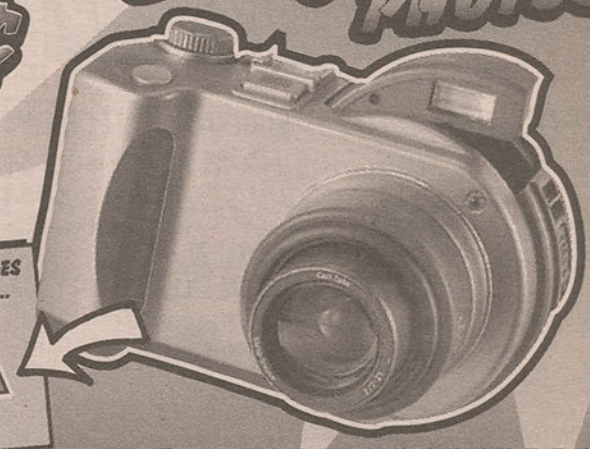

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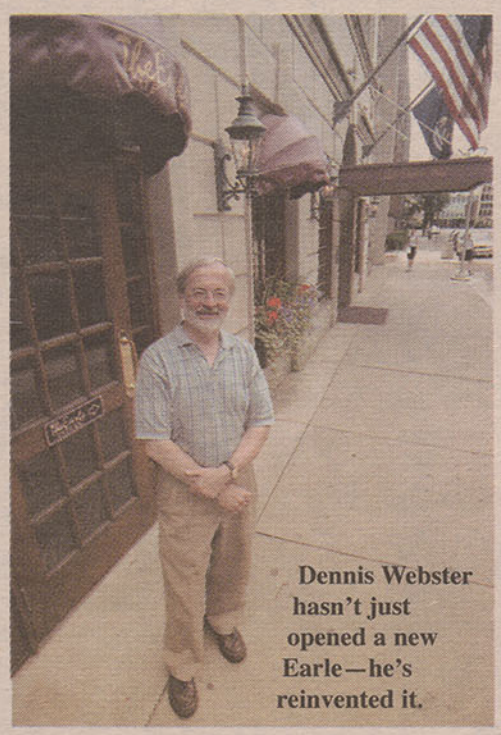
The Earle heads uptown

With a nod to Escoffier

In the weeks before Dennis Webster opened the **Earle Uptown** inside the Bell Tower Hotel, his biggest concern was that people would expect a clone of the original Earle downtown. Both Earles do have Webster at the helm, chef Shelley Caughey Adams behind the menus, and sommelier Steve Goldberg overseeing the wine lists. But the Earle Uptown is closer in spirit to its predecessor, Escoffier, than to the restaurant from which it spun.

Certainly that's true of the decor. Webster has kept Escoffier's elegant textured wallpaper, seashell-patterned carpet, crystal chandeliers, and dark-stained bar. The kitchen has been completely reequipped, but you'd never know, since it's hidden behind the same swinging double doors on the restaurant's north wall.



Dennis Webster hasn't just opened a new Earle—he's reinvented it.

The few additions—new chairs in a soft, suedelike teal; potted orchids on the linen-covered tables; ceramic salt and pepper shakers labeled *Sel* and *Poivre;* a new curved half wall affording some welcome privacy to diners in the front half of the restaurant—fit in so well that only diehard regulars of Escoffier would recognize them as new.

And like Escoffier, the Earle Uptown specializes in classic French cuisine. The à la carte summer menu—still tentative as of this writing—features foie gras, duck and leeks in puff pastry, and fish terrine to start; asparagus soup and shrimp bisque; a tidy selection of salads, including the indispensable *niçoise;* and entrees that include veal with morels, roasted lamb, duck breast with pears and ginger, bouillabaisse, salmon, and sea bass with fennel and Pernod. There are also three steaks—a twenty-ounce porterhouse, a fourteen-ounce New York strip, and a fourteen-ounce Delmonico—presented for maximum versatility with a list of optional sauces (béarnaise, Roquefort, horseradish cream) and add-ons (seared foie gras, grilled portobellos, grilled shrimp, caramelized shallots). There's just one vegetarian offering: stuffed artichokes with grilled spring vegetables. At $22, it's the least expensive entree on the menu.

Once diners walk in the door, the differences between the Earle Uptown and the original Earle are clear: a decidedly higher-toned atmosphere and a sharp, upscale focus on fine French dining rather than provincial French and Italian cuisine. "We will never serve happy-hour mussels," Webster laughs, alluding to a long-standing—and incredibly popular—tradition at the downtown Earle's wine bar.

The differences between the Earle Uptown and Escoffier are more subtle. Whereas Escoffier was a restaurant shaped and driven by the personality of its owners—at various, sometimes overlapping, times, Tony Perrault, Maureen Bowman Perrault, and, in later years, former headwaiter Terry McClymonds—the original Earle, as well as its new sister restaurant, is not. The neatly dressed, soft-spoken Webster is very much in evidence in the dining room, but he's an unobtrusive presence, and it would be hard to say what kind of person he's like on the basis of his restaurant.

The personality issue was, according to many of Escoffier's former regulars, both a blessing and a curse. If you liked the owners, and they liked you, and everything clicked, chances are you loved the restaurant. If you didn't, and they didn't, you, well, didn't. The Earle Uptown, on the other hand, should stand on the merits of its kitchen, its gracefully amended decor, and its location.

Webster is clearly mindful of that location—surrounded by the U-M Central Campus, across from Hill Auditorium, and close to the Power Center. The restaurant's stated hours will be 5–10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 5–11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, but Webster plans to advertise in concert programs that the restaurant will be open after the show—"whenever that may be," he adds. "We definitely intend to encourage after-the-show dessert, coffee, and nightcap business, and will tailor a menu specifically to that."

The location does have two things very much in common with the Earle Downtown: "no visibility and no parking," Webster laughs. "At least we're used to that." The restaurant will offer valet parking at the hotel lobby entrance.

Interestingly, Webster says he'd been thinking about opening an alternative version of the Earle for months, but he thought he'd be doing it in Broadway Village, the $140 million project comprising retail, restaurants, performing arts and fitness centers, and residential units proposed for Ann Arbor's Lower Town, north of the Broadway Bridges. Webster says he's still interested in Broadway Village "in a very big way"—so Earle variant number three might well be in the cards.

The Earle Uptown, 300 South Thayer inside the Bell Tower Hotel, 994–0222. Tues.–Thurs. 5–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 5–11 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon.

Downtown is now Chocolate Central

At Schakolad, a chocolate martini glass

When Scott Huckestein was downsized out of his job as a Northwest Airlines maintenance technician, he and his wife, Dianna, decided to buy a business—something that would put them in direct control of their own finances as well as help them become a more active part of the community. Their answer: a **Schakolad Chocolate Factory** franchise, which they're opening in a one-time copy shop on East Washington near Main Street. "We thought it was a great thing to get into, because a chocolate shop is such a happy atmosphere," Scott says.

Schakolad joins Kilwin's and the Chocolate Cafe as downtown Ann Arbor's third chocolate specialty store. Like its nearby competitors, Schakolad offers hand-dipped truffles and other chocolate confections, but its specialty is three-dimensional chocolates molded into iconic shapes—an artist's palette and paints, baby booties, golf balls, a white chocolate swan filled with candy, and even a chocolate martini glass complete with chocolate olive. Scott expects the molded chocolates, which take about twenty minutes to make, to be a big part of the business. "We have hundreds of molds, and we can do just about anything—even a chocolate business card, or a wedding picture scanned in full color onto edible rice paper and then molded onto a bar of chocolate," he says. "It's really up to the customer's imagination."

Schakolad was founded in Florida by second-generation chocolatier Baruch Schaked, who learned the trade—and the

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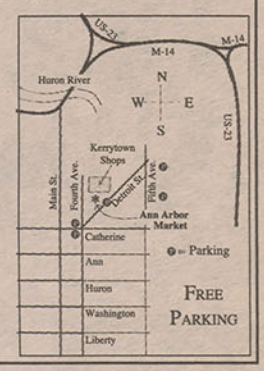

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family's "secret" French Belgian-style chocolate recipes—from his father-in-law, chocolate manufacturer Gustavo Bar. When Schaked retired in 1995, his son, Edgar, expanded the original south Florida shop into a chain of corporate and franchised stores.

Scott spent several weeks at Schakolad headquarters in Orlando, learning how to make those three-dimensional molded chocolates, hand-dip truffles, and gift-wrap the store's products. "They would only teach me the recipes for some of their best truffles—the Jamaican rum, the mint, the champagne truffle, the raspberry, which is an award winner," says Scott. "So I'll be the only one putting those together at the store."

Schakolad's truffles are rolled and filled in advance, but they'll be hand dipped to order, so that the customer can get the freshest product possible. The shop also sells hot chocolate, espresso, and cappuccino in a stylish cafe atmosphere with hardwood floors, wood laminate cabinetry, soft ambient lighting, and recorded jazz.

Dianna Huckestein, who administers physician group Integrated Health Associates, will be helping out in the shop on her days off, as well as wrangling the Huckesteins' five-month-old son, Joshua. Joshua is one reason Scott is eager to have kids come into the shop, where he'll be giving tours and chocolate-making lessons to Boy and Girl Scout troops or teaching children how to make a chocolate airplane, one kid at a time. "This is a business my son can grow up with," Scott says.

Schakolad Chocolate Factory, 111 East Washington, 213–1700. Fax: 213–1701. Probable hours: Mon.–Sat. 8 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

The Ficheras sell Stucchi's

New plans for a local ice cream empire

The Fichera family, founders of the **Stucchi's** ice cream empire, have sold the company to Shilpan Amin and his brothers-in-law, Jason Abbate and Kevin Phelps. Amin and his partners already owned the Stucchi's ice cream shops on State Street and South University; with the acquisition of Stucchi's, the company, they've acquired the ice cream maker's Jackson Road manufacturing facility as well as the Stucchi's name and licensing rights. Amin, an M.B.A. and former engineer who acts as the partnership's spokesman and strategist, says brothers Dave and Chris Fichera were tiring of the business and ready to move on to other things. "I think they kind of got lost on their core competency," he says, "which is making great ice cream. We're trying to turn it around by focusing on the product, improving the manufacturing facility, then going out there and being more aggressive about starting up more stores."

Although Stucchi's has won a number of local and regional awards, few people outside Michigan and Texas, where the company has a handful of licensees, have ever heard of the product. With its rich butterfat content and luxurious, dense texture, Stucchi's competes in the "superpremium" ice cream category, along with much bigger names like Häagen-Dazs and Ben & Jerry's. Those big producers use fully automated production lines, Amin says; he thinks that Stucchi's more hands-on process allows for more visual inspections during manufacturing and, in the end, a more consistent texture and quality. It's one of the reasons, he suggests, that Stucchi's has held strong on State Street even after Ben & Jerry's opened next door. "We still won the *Michigan Daily* and *Current* awards for best ice cream," he points out. "Of course, Ben & Jerry's advantage is farther reach and better distribution."

Amin and his partners plan for controlled growth, starting with a new store in downtown Detroit and then looking for opportunities in Oakland County and the Grand Rapids area. Once they break into a market with an ice cream shop or two, they'll start thinking about picking up wholesale accounts there as well. "We get calls constantly about getting wholesale and retail accounts across the country," he says, "but we need to stay focused. We need to grow a base before we can think high growth."

Phelps, a former restaurant manager with Outback Steakhouse and Bob Evans, runs the State Street and South University shops, as well as consulting with new licensees. Abbate, formerly in sales and marketing with Coca-Cola, handles manufacturing and wholesale accounts. Together with Amin, they're revitalizing Stucchi's from the inside out. "There's a renewed excitement throughout the company, down to the people in the plant and the retail stores," Amin says. "One of the plant employees said recently, 'It's fun to work here again.'"

Amin nonetheless wants to make sure he gives credit where it is due: to Chris and Dave Fichera, who founded the business in 1986 and got its name from an Italian biking poster that used to hang in their family home. "Dave's been a huge help to us, staying involved, consulting with us, and making sure we don't make the same mistakes he did," Amin says. "He was the true entrepreneur behind this company. He created the ingredients and the process and everything behind Stucchi's. It's his baby, and he and we don't want to see his hard work and efforts fail."

Briefly Noted

Rasik Patel and a fellow automotive engineer have opened a **Quizno's** submarine shop franchise on Stadium near the Jackson Road intersection, where Papa Romano's used to be. They'd been looking for the right spot in Ann Arbor ever since they opened their first Quizno's in Westland in 1992; it took eleven years for the

right combination of location, size, and price to come along. They also needed a spot that was far enough away from the Main Street Quizno's, operated by another franchisee, to avoid direct competition.

When the partners decided to make the leap from cars to sandwiches, they initially looked at opening a Subway franchise, but Patel says they felt Subway's sales figures had more or less leveled off. Quizno's, on the other hand, was new and in full expansion mode; it now has more than 2,000 restaurants worldwide, and it claims to be opening a new one every sixteen hours. "It is growing, and it is growing continuously," Patel says. "So we just kind of jumped on it."

All of Quizno's submarine sandwiches are assembled and toasted to order. The menu total generally hovers around fifty subs, with new ones being introduced each quarter and poor sellers rotated out. The newest item on the menu is a "Tuscan" sandwich featuring seasoned bread, grilled chicken, romaine lettuce, and a savory sauce. Patel says it's good—maybe even good enough to win over his teenagers, ages fourteen and sixteen, who don't consider it cool to go to Dad's place for lunch. "My kids say, 'Oh, let's go to Subway,'" he laughs.

Quizno's, 2554 West Stadium, 214–9600. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. noon–8 p.m.

The **Satchel Shop** is scheduled to open at Briarwood later this summer in the JCPenney wing, according to the center's new marketing director, Kenyatta Bynoe. Bynoe has joined the center's staff at an exceptionally busy time: the new **Von Maur** department store, **Marshall Field's,** and Briarwood itself are all undergoing major construction, and both **Victoria's Secret Beauty** and kitchen store **Williams-Sonoma** are temporarily closed while they remodel. The latter is doubling in size and turning into what the chain calls one of its "grand cuisine" stores: more inventory, a complete kitchen with demonstrations, and a tasting bar featuring many house-brand condiments, savories, and sauces. Look for a fall reopening.

Closings

More than one reader wrote to ask what had happened to **Inn Season,** the vegetarian- and macrobiotic-friendly cafe on Washington Street near Fifth Avenue. The restaurant had opened in 2000 as the Sunflower Cafe, but it changed its name last year in the hopes of capitalizing on the reputation of Royal Oak's Inn Season restaurant, owned by the same partners. Tom Lasher, who headed up the kitchen at both restaurants, says they had hoped the name change would boost business, but "it got to the point where not only were the weekdays slow, but the weekends were, too. We finally realized we were draining one business for the other." The Ann Arbor version of Inn Season closed for good June 21. The Royal Oak original, which has been in business twenty-one years and is to Royal Oak what Seva is to Ann Arbor, remains open.

Buster's Express, a late-night-convenience-store version of the original Buster's Market at the corner of Packard and Platt, has closed. The original Buster's remains open, as does Buster's West on Maple Road.

—Laura McReynolds

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Changes column reported on nine new businesses. Three are still open: **Four Directions** on Main, selling interesting rocks and minerals and other collectibles; **Different Attitude,** a boutique specializing in homemade crafts that opened on Fourth Avenue and has since moved to South Ashley; and Ann Arbor's link in the **Schlotzsky's Deli** chain, on Jackson east of Maple. The six casualties: furniture dealer **Englander's Other Place** on South State; Fourth Avenue jewelry store **Miami Moon; Hall of Fame Sports Books** on Fifth Avenue; South University card and gift-book shop the **Paper Peddler;** and **Mattress Express** and **Stop and Shop Party Store,** neighbors on Packard near Platt.

August 1993 survival rate: 33 percent

Five years ago this month, we announced five retail and restaurant openings. Two were in art sales: the **Zoom Gallery** at Miller and First, now closed; and **Gallery 212,** which opened on Main Street, later moved to Liberty, and now appears closed, with unconfirmed reports it might reopen. The other new businesses are all still going: the **Cavern Club** nightspot on First, **Saica** Japanese restaurant on Plymouth in the Courtyard Shops, and **HobbyTown USA** on South Main in Woodland Plaza, which George and Georgene Brown sold to "JT" Terry earlier this year.

August 1998 survival rate: 60 percent

One year ago this month, Marketplace Changes covered three new businesses. Two Briarwood tenants survived their first year—independent-film specialists **Madstone Theaters** and jeweler **Rogers & Hollands.** Lawn and garden equipment dealer **Wm. F. Sell Equipment** is still in business in Taylor but closed its Ann Arbor store after only a few months.

August 2002 survival rate: 67 percent

—Paul R. Schwankl

Got a retail or restaurant change? Leave voice mail at 769–3175, extension 364, or send e-mail to lauramcreynolds@sbcglobal.net.

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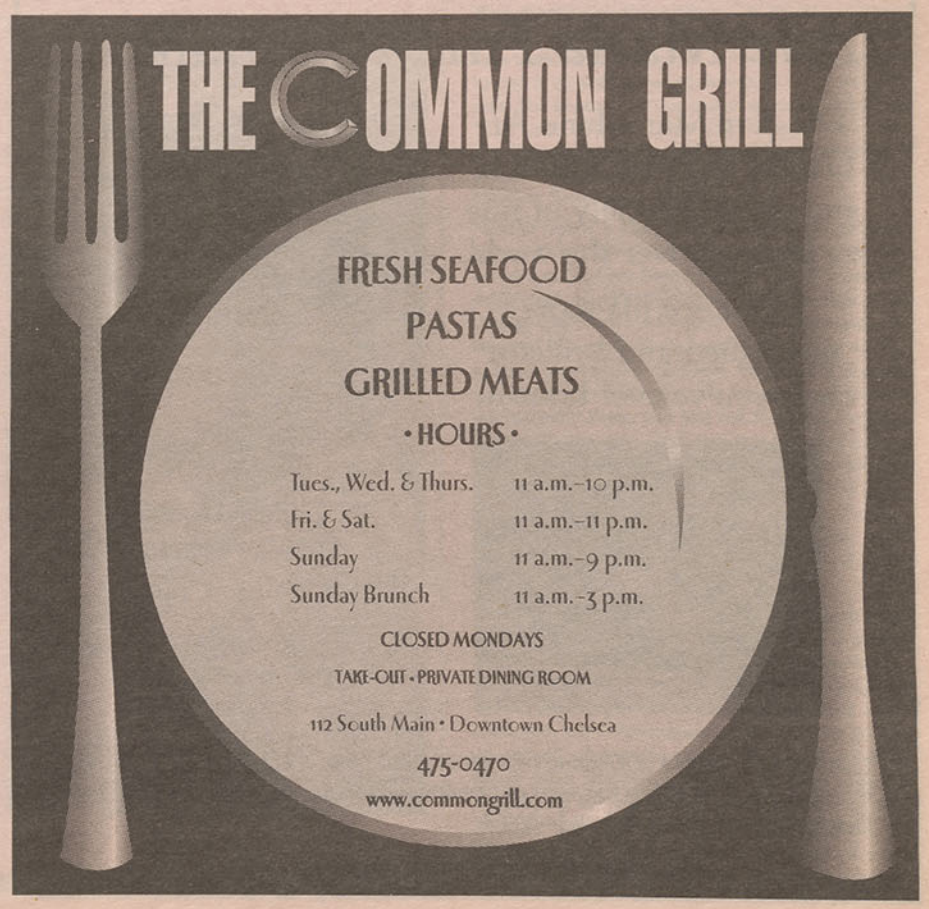

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AUGUST EVENTS

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375 or 769-4950.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:
The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

★ *Denotes no admission charge.*

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 FRIDAY

★**Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show.** *July 27–August 1.* This annual fair features daily showing and judging of animals, including llamas, sheep, horses, swine, rabbits, poultry, cattle, dogs, and cats. Also, agriculture-related displays. *Special events today:* a horse show (8 a.m.), archery contest (1 p.m.), decorated-animal contest (1:30 p.m.), and judging of livestock (9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2:30 p.m.). *8 a.m.–10 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 997–1678.*

★**"Downtown Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Friday through August 22.* Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *10–11 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Story Hour A–Z": Arborland Borders.** *Every Friday.* Borders staffers read a selection of kids books, lead a sing-along, and help kids make a take-home craft. Bring something from home whose name begins with the day's featured letter. Today: "N." Also this month: "O" (August 8), "P" (August 15), "Q" (August 22), and—how'd you guess?—"R" (August 29). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Kids Health Reading and Activity Hour": U-M Health Education Resource Center.** *August 1, 15, & 29.* This interactive program for preschoolers and their parents features stories on a health topic and related activities. Today's topic: **"Leading Healthy Lives."** Also this month, **"Don't Pass the Germs"** (August 15) and **"Stop These Bullies"** (August 29). *11:30 a.m., East Ann Arbor Health Center, 4260 Plymouth Rd. Free. 647–5645.*

Friday Wine Down: Paesano's Restaurant. *Every Friday.* Informal alfresco wine tasting featuring 4 Italian wines, appetizers, and live music. Today's performer: jazz & blues guitarist **Laith Al-Saadi** and a guest musician TBA. Also this month: jazz guitarist **John Behling** (August 8), jazz guitarist **Jake Reichbart** (August 15 & 22), and jazz saxophonist **Dave Luther** (August 29). *5:30–6:30 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. $20. 971–0484.*

Karen Casey, Aug. 4

Miss Julie, July 31–Aug. 3

GALLERIES

59 **EXHIBIT OPENINGS** — Laura Bartlett

59 **GALLERY REVIEW**
Rubber duckies — Laura Bartlett

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

67 **NIGHTSPOTS SCHEDULE** — John Hinchey

67 **NIGHTSPOTS REVIEW**
Annie Capps — Stephanie Kadel-Taras

EVENTS REVIEWS

49 **MICHAEL COONEY**
Everyman's voice — Sandor Slomovits

53 **OTIS TAYLOR**
American roots — Alan Goldsmith

64 ***BLITHE SPIRIT***
Wives, words, and martinis — Sonia Kovacs

92 **EVENTS AT A GLANCE**

Beausoleil, Aug. 7

Liz Larin, Aug. 21

★**Open Card and Board Gaming Night: The Underworld.** *Every Friday.* All invited to play any of the collectible card or board games that the Underworld carries—but you must find your own opponents. Also, there are 3 **Magic: the Gathering tournaments** this month: a sealed-deck 8th edition tournament ($15 includes cards) on August 1, a type 2 constructed deck tournament ($5) on August 15, and an 8th edition booster draft tournament ($10 includes cards) on August 29. *6 p.m.–midnight, Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**Ultimate Frisbee.** *Every Friday & Sunday (different locations).* All invited to a pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *6 p.m. (Fri.), Slauson School, 1019 W. Washington; and 11:30 a.m. & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Palmer Field, next to the U-M CCRB, Washtenaw between Geddes & E. Ann. Free. 662–3332.*

★**"TGIF Democratic Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Friday.* Moderate-paced 26-mile ride to the Dexter Dairy Queen for a snack. *6 p.m., Abbot School, 2670 Sequoia Pkwy. (off Maple 1 block south of Miller). Free. 913–9851.*

"Friday Night Live": Ann Arbor Parks Department Youth Outreach Program. Supervised dance party for middle school (7–9:30 p.m.) and high school (9:30 p.m.–midnight) students. DJs play a variety of current R&B, rock, rap, and pop. *7 p.m.–midnight, Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5. 997–1615.*

Woodspeak: Frontline Church. Folk and world music songs of praise by this local band that combines West African, Cuban, and Indian percussive rhythms with Gypsy and Celtic melodies, performed on djembe, tabla, violin, mandolin, and balafon. Coffee and pizza included. *7 p.m., The Warehouse, 3630 Plaza Dr. $5 (kids 10 & under, free). 994–1311.*

★**Open Mike: Starbucks Coffee.** *Every Friday.* All poets and musicians invited. The open mike is preceded and followed by the **Upthegrove Project,** an ensemble of 3 poets and 3 musicians that performs poetry set to music. *8 p.m., Starbucks, 222 S. State. Free. 216–1674.*

Michael Cooney: The Ark. *See review, p. 49.* Often referred to as a "one-man folk festival," Cooney has long been one of the Ark's most popular attractions. He plays nearly a dozen instruments extremely well, he's a fine singer, and his performances draw on a vast repertoire of alternately good-time and moving folk songs. A superb entertainer, Cooney fleshes out his shows with a variety of great jokes and stories. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Suds": Chelsea Area Players. *July 31–August 2.* Mary Beth Seiler directs Steve Gunderson's romantic musical comedy, set in the 1960s, about a woman who loses her sweetheart on her birthday and decides to end it all until an angel accosts her in a laundromat. The nearly 40 lively songs in the score include "The Loco-Motion," "You Can't Hurry Love," "Always Something There to Remind Me," and more. *8 p.m., Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer Rd., Chelsea. Ticket price TBA. 475–8713.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. *Every Wednesday–Sunday, June 19–August 30. See review, p. 64.* Guy Sanville directs Noel Coward's delightfully spooky farce. Malcolm Tulip stars as the middle-aged writer who hosts a seance in order to research the topic for a novel. When the wacky medium accidentally summons the ghost of his brilliant, gorgeous first wife, she refuses to go back to the hereafter alone, and sets out to plague her husband's second wife. The cast also includes Sandra Birch, Randall Godwin, Terry Heck, Janet Maylie, Michelle Mountain, and Kate Peckham. *8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets: $22.50 (Wed. & Thurs.), $27.50 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), $32.50 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance & at the door. 433–ROSE.*

"Miss Julie" and "The Stronger": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. *July 31–August 3.* Robert Bethune directs 2 psychological dramas by the Swedish modernist August Strindberg. The classic ***Miss Julie,*** a 90-minute 1-act, scandalized class-conscious late-19th-century audiences with its tale of a young aristocratic woman who seduces her father's valet. Bethune downplays the class aspect to emphasize the characters' inner tension as they struggle with an increasingly viselike situation. The 20-minute 1-act ***The Stronger*** is built around a cafe conversation between a woman who won't stop talk-

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Kirov Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre
Valery Gergiev conductor

La Venexiana
Claudio Cavina director

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Balanchine/Stravinsky!
Miami City Ballet
Edward Villella artistic director

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Alexander Korsantia piano

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Suzanne Farrell artistic director

St. Petersburg Academic Capella Choir
Vladislav Chernushenko conductor

Chava Alberstein

Doudou N'Diaye Rose master drummer
Les Rosettes

Charles Lloyd Quintet
Charles Lloyd tenor saxophone, flute, taragato
Geri Allen piano
John Abercrombie guitar
Robert Hurst bass
Eric Harland drums

Twelfth Night
Shakespeare's Globe Theatre
Tim Carroll director

Christmas Concert!
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra
Keith Lockhart conductor

Handel's *Messiah*
UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Jerry Blackstone conductor

Hill Auditorium Re-Opening Concert

Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique
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John Eliot Gardiner conductor

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Hilary Hahn violin
Natalie Zhu piano

Valentine's Day Concert!
Canadian Brass

Children of Uganda
Frank Katoola artistic director

Cecilia Bartoli mezzo-soprano
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

Othello
Guthrie Theater
Joe Dowling director

Merce Cunningham Dance Company
Merce Cunningham artistic director

Kronos Quartet

Ornette Coleman Trio
Ornette Coleman alto saxophone
Charnett Moffett bass
Denardo Coleman drums

Israel Philharmonic
Yoel Levi conductor
Lynn Harrell cello

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The Tallis Scholars
Peter Phillips director

Jazz at Lincoln Center's
Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra
Music of the Latin Jazz Masters

Lang Lang piano

Philippe Decouflé's *Tricodex*
Lyon Opera Ballet
Yorgos Loukos artistic director

William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*
U-M Symphony Orchestra
UMS Choral Union and U-M Choirs
Leonard Slatkin conductor

Alfred Brendel piano

Girls Choir of Harlem
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August EVENTS @ Ann Arbor District Library

Monday Aug. **4**, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Movie for Youth — Based on the novel ***Shrek*** by William Steig — Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Tuesday Aug. **5**, 2:00 - 2:45 pm
Joke Book Craft — Create your own joke book! (ages 6 and up)
Loving Branch
Repeated: Wednesday, Aug. **13**, 2:00 - 2:45 pm — West Branch
Thursday, Aug. **14**, 2:00 - 2:45 pm — Northeast Branch
Thursday, Aug. **21**, 2:00 - 2:45 pm — Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Wednesday Aug. **6**, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Game Day @ The Library — Bring Your Favorite Game
West Branch
Repeated: Wednesday, Aug. **13**, 1:00 - 2:30 pm
Downtown Library Youth Story Room

Thursday Aug. **7**, 2:00 - 2:45 pm
Hootenanny — Musical fun with **Sara Melton Keller**
Northeast Branch
Repeated: Friday, Aug. **8**, 2:00 - 2:45 pm
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Thursday Aug. **7**, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Family Camp-In — Stories, songs and more
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room
Repeated: Tuesday Aug. **12**, 7:00 - 8:00 pm — Loving Branch

Friday Aug. **8**, 6:30 - 8:45 pm
Salute To Katharine Hepburn — Movie: ***The Lion In Winter***
Oscar-winning portrayal by Hepburn with powerful performance by Peter O'Toole. Anthony Hopkins and Timothy Dalton made their screen debuts in this memorable, award-winning film.
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Tuesday Aug. **12**, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
The Amazing Egghead Comedy Show with **Shawn Jacob**
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Thursday Aug. **14**, 7:00 - 8:45 pm
Movie: *The King Of Masks* — Acclaimed Chinese Film
This deeply moving film about a man and an orphan provides insights into changing Chinese culture.
Northeast Branch

Sunday Aug. **17**, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Latin Dance at the Library — Learn the Salsa with instructors **Kari Fedewa** and **Oscar Anda**
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Thursday Aug. **21**, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Movie For Youth — Based on the book ***Stuart Little*** by E. B. White — Northeast Branch

Thursday Aug. **21**, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Those Crazy Vaudeville Days — Family-style entertainment before TV and movies: Lecture with music by **Russ Collins**
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Saturday Aug. **23**, 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Vaudeville Tunes with **David Andrews** and **Emily Phenix**
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

Sunday Aug. **24**, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Concert: Comic Opera Guild — Humorous songs with **Tom** and **Pat Petiet**, **Mitch Gillett** and **Kara Alfano**
Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room

ing and her silent companion that erupts in what Bethune calls a "blast of fire." Cast: Amy Caldwell, Rob Roy, and Rachel Toon. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $12) in advance and at the door. 477–0000.*

"The Search for Intelligent Improv in the Universe": Project Pangaea (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). *July 31 and August 1–3 & 7–10.* Isaac Ellis directs this local ensemble in a hilarious series of wacky improvised skits. Each show is different. The August 3 performance is followed by a discussion with the director and cast. Cast: Aral Basil Gribble II, Laurel Hufano, Jen Letherer, Alex Mendiola, and Annette Auger. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $18 (seniors, $15; Thurs., whatever you can afford to pay) in advance & at the door. Student rush tickets $10 when available. $95 festival pass includes admission to as many performances of as many shows as you want to attend. 663–0681.*

Dustin Diamond: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 1 & 2.* Local debut of this comic actor best known from his role as Screech in the various *Saved by the Bell* movies and sitcoms. His stand-up act features edgy topical and observational comedy. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $11 reserved seating in advance, $13 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★**"Fraleighs Midsummer's Night Festival": Fraleighs Landscape Nursery.** All invited to sit by a bonfire, hear storytelling, and learn about night gardening by Fraleighs staff, and listen to live music. Refreshments. *9 p.m., Fraleighs Landscape Nursery, 8600 Jackson Rd., Dexter. Free. 426–5067.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Swimming Pool" (Francois Ozon, 2003). *August 1–7.* Suspenseful tale of a burned-out mystery writer who retreats to her publisher's French villa to recharge, only to find ominous clues of a covered-up crime. Charlotte Rampling, Ludivine Sagnier, Charles Dance. French & English, subtitles. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **U-M Center for Japanese Studies. "J-Horror."** *August 1 & 8.* The annual CJS summer film series this year celebrates Japanese horror films, which are distinguished by unusual plots, hair-raising imagery, and a goosebumpy reliance on psychological or other kinds of unseen horrors. Today: ***Audition*** (Takashi Miike, 1999), a thriller about a shy widower who tries to find a new wife by holding auditions for a nonexistent film and meets a pretty ballerina who turns out not to be what she seems. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. 764–6307. Lorch Hall Auditorium, Tappan at Monroe. 7 p.m.

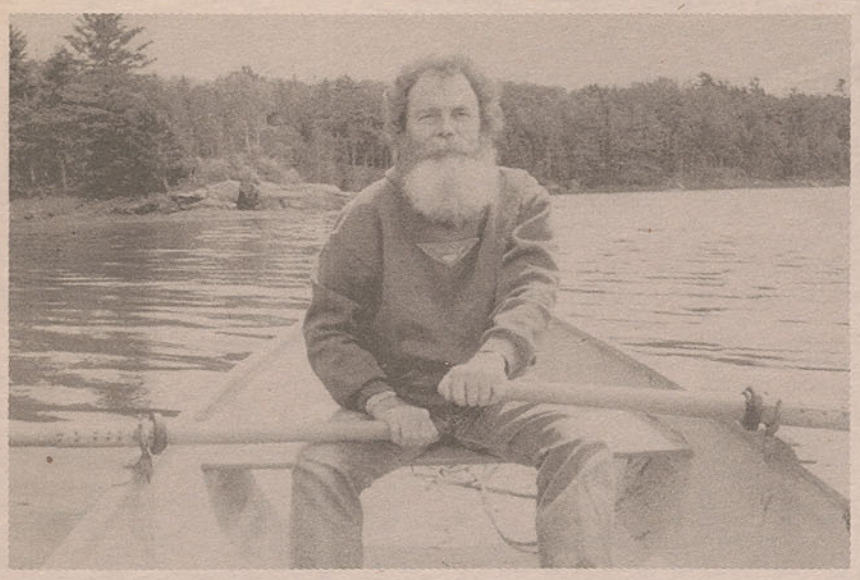
2 SATURDAY

★**"Sunrise Saturday Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday.* Very slow-paced 22-mile ride to Dexter for breakfast. Begins at sunrise. *6:27 a.m. (Aug. 2), 6:34 a.m. (Aug. 9), 6:42 a.m. (Aug. 16), 6:49 a.m. (Aug. 23), & 6:57 a.m. (Aug. 30), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 665–6327, 913–9851.*

"Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a birding hike to observe various species, record their location, and compare trends from year to year. Bring binoculars and a field guide. *7:30 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. (Park entry fee: $4 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426–8211.*

★**"Dexter Breakfast Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Saturday.* Slow-paced (22 miles) and moderate/fast-paced (29 to 70 miles) round-trip rides to the Dexter Bakery. A very popular ride. Also, after the bakery stop, a fast/moderate-paced **swim extension ride** (40 to 60 miles) continues to Silver Lake for a swim. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *8 a.m. Meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. For information about weekly breakfast rides, call 434–3097 (Aug. 2 ride), 971–3610 (Aug. 9 & 23), 996–9461 (Aug. 16), & 662–6884 (Aug. 30). Swim extension: 971–1065. General information: 913–9851.*

Chelsea Antiques Market. *August 2 & 3.* More than 100 dealers from around the Midwest sell a wide range of antiques and affordable collectibles.



Michael Cooney
Everyman's voice

Michael Cooney is well into his fifth decade playing music professionally, and he has appeared at the Ark—where he returns on Friday, August 1—in every one of those decades. Along the way, he's also played at most major folk festivals, coffeehouses, and concert halls throughout North America and Europe. "I've never seen a better performer," says Dave Siglin, who with his wife, Linda, has managed the Ark since 1969. Note that word, "performer." Siglin did not call Cooney a folksinger, and neither does Michael, who says, "I'm an entertainer who sings a few folk songs."

That's true enough, although in a repertoire of well over 500 tunes, there have got to be more than a "few" folk songs. Besides folk, Cooney also entertains with blues and ragtime tunes, popular and obscure songs from every period of American history, sea chanteys, work songs, cowboy songs, novelty songs, children's songs, and English, Scottish, Irish, and Australian ballads. And he seems to know the history and origins of every one. He also tells hilarious stories, old recitations, and bits of Maine humor, and accompanies himself on six- and twelve-string guitars, banjo, fretless banjo, concertina, and a suitcase of odd music makers that includes the harmonica, pennywhistle, and jaw harp.

Despite being accomplished at all of these instruments, there is no Michael Cooney style of guitar or banjo playing. Unlike Leo Kottke or Mississippi John Hurt—where as soon as you catch a few notes you know who you are hearing—Cooney makes each piece sound distinct and true to its origins. He lovingly crafts the right accompaniment to every song or story. Although you hear frequent flashes of virtuosity, his playing never draws so much attention to itself that it overwhelms the song.

And if a song needs no accompaniment, Cooney will just sing it a cappella in a voice that is unique. If you hear him once, you'll always recognize that still-boyish voice, which, depending on the song, is front-porch-late-night-don't-wake-the-kids crooning, or exuberant, laughing, and whooping. Sometimes it even sounds as though it's about to crack, but it never does. Cooney's voice is the Everyman voice; he's a singing Regular Joe—no put-on patina, no attempt to stick to a particular style, to sound like anyone else, or even to sound ordinary. What you hear in Michael Cooney's voice is the songs—and his love of the songs.

Whether he's singing something you've maybe heard too many times, like "Sloop John B," or Leadbelly's "Fannin Street," which you can never hear often enough, or a song by an unknown contemporary writer Michael met somewhere in his wide travels, or a song so obscure you will probably never hear anyone else sing it, Michael will help you hear the song, sing it with him, and maybe even go home and learn it for yourself, so you can sing it again.

—Sandor Slomovits

No reproductions. Food & refreshments available. *8 a.m.–5 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, Old US-12 at Manchester, Chelsea. (Take I-94 to exit 159 north; go north 1 mile and turn west on Old US-12; the fairgrounds are 1/4 mile down on the left.) $3. (800) 572–6703.*

★**T'ai Chi.** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Local martial arts instructor Gabriel Chin leads a session of t'ai chi, which combines an exaggeratedly slow martial art and meditation. *8:30 a.m., the Cube, north side of Michigan Union. Free. 761–3272.*

★**Sailing and Windsurfing: U-M Sailing Club.** *Every Saturday.* All sailors from amateurs to Ernest Shackletons invited to try 30 minutes of sailing (9 a.m.–1 p.m.) and windsurfing (11 a.m.–1 p.m.) with a club instructor. *9 a.m.–1 p.m., Base Line Lake (exit US-23 at North Territorial, go west 6 miles to Mast Rd., north 3 miles to Strawberry Lake Rd.), Dexter. First 2 visits free. 426–4299.*

"Wetlands by Canoe": Ann Arbor Parks Department. A city naturalist leads a canoe trip to explore the wetlands along the Huron River. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–noon, Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $9 (nonresidents, $11). Preregistration required. 662–9319.*

★**26th Annual Dixboro Fair: Dixboro United Methodist Church.** More than 4,000 visitors are expected at this community fair, with a Beanie Baby walk, silent auction, carnival games, an animal show, petting zoo, and live music. Lots of goodies to eat, including homemade pies and cakes, ice cream, hot dogs and sausages, corn on the cob, popcorn, and watermelon. Entertainment includes bluegrass bands TBA. Also, the annual **"Artisans on the Green,"** a juried arts and crafts show of 60 award-winning Michigan artisans, with paintings, jewelry, woodworking, dolls, ceramics, baskets, clothing, quilting, glass, textiles, florals, and much more. Proceeds benefit the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County. *10 a.m.–6 p.m., Dixboro Village Green, Plymouth Rd. at Cherry Hill Rd. (2 miles east of US-23). Free admission. 665–5632.*

★**Walk: Grex.** *Every Saturday (different locations).* All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Park (August 2) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (August 9, 16, 23, & 30). *10:30 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park (Aug. 2) & in Gallup Park parking lot (Aug. 9, 16, 23, & 30), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 930–6564.*

Draw Doubles: Ann Arbor Area Disc Induced Sports Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $4 per player; free for spectators. (Park entry fee: $4 per vehicle.) 434–1615.*

★**Kids Events: Arborland Borders.** *August 2, 9, 16, & 30.* Borders staffers read a selection of kids books, sing songs, and help kids make a take-home craft. Today's topic: **"Snow White."** Also this month: **"Shel Silverstein's Poetry"** (August 9), a **"Lilo and Stitch Hawaiian Luau"** (August 16), and a **"Back to School Celebration"** (August 30). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Kids Events: Liberty Borders.** *Every Saturday.* Borders staffers read stories and do a craft (August 2, 9, 16, & 30) and lead a craft hour (August 23) about **"Birds of Summer"** (August 2), **"Face Painting Fun"** (August 9), **"Woodland Animals"** (August 16), **"Summer Memories"** (August 23), and **"Back to School"** (August 30). *11 a.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

Lughnasadh Festival: Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join local pagans for a festival honoring the Celtic sun god Lugh. Activities include games, presentations, workshops, a ritual, and a potluck dinner and dessert contest (bring a dish). *11 a.m.–9 p.m., Gallup Park picnic shelter (east side of Huron Pkwy.; enter west of Huron Pkwy., off Fuller across from Huron High School). $10 donation. 998–1029.*

"The Summer Sky: Live!"/"Just Imagine": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday. The Summer Sky: Live!* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays only and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the stars, constellations, and planets visible in the summer sky, including the Northern Lights. *Just Imagine* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays only & 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about a variety of astronomical issues, from how we connect stars to make constellations and where the moon comes from to what life would be like if we had a different star for our sun. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $3.50. 764–0478.*

2nd Annual Riverfolk Music and Arts Festival: Community Resource Center. A daylong traditional-music blowout headlined by the Grammy-nominated bluegrass fiddler and vocalist **Laurie Lewis** (9:45 p.m.), twice voted Best Female Vocalist by the International Bluegrass Music Association, and by the **Red Stick Ramblers** (4:45 & 10:55 p.m.), a Louisiana Cajun band. Local performers: original and traditional folk song duo **Mustard's Retreat** (noon & 6 p.m.), the acoustic blues ensemble **Wandering Wheel** (12:45 p.m.), singer-songwriter **Ann Doyle** (1:30 & 6:45 p.m.), the duo of Cleveland guitarist **Jason Dennie** and singer-songwriter and Ann Arbor guitarist **Dave Mosher** (2:15 p.m.), the Irish band **Sparks Rant** (3 p.m.), the duo of world-class harmonica wizard **Peter Madcat Ruth** and ace fingerstyle blues guitarist **Shari Kane** (4 & 9 p.m.), Salinebred national Scottish fiddle champion **Jeremy Kittel** (7:30 p.m.), and the Manchester-based **Raisin Pickers** string ensemble (8:15 p.m.). Also, free workshops on Appalachian clogging, ceili dancing, and the Cajun two-step, and several musical workshops led by today's performers. Kids crafts, a sprinkler maze, a kids parade, and an art fair of works by over 35 local artists. Preceded by a fund-raising dinner, with live music by the **Red Stick Ramblers** (August 1, 8–11 p.m., $50). *Noon–11:30 p.m., Carr Park, Manchester. Tickets $12 in advance, $15 at the door (kids 10 & under, free). 323–1761.*

★**Mech Warrior and Warhammer 40K Tournaments: The Underworld.** *Every Saturday.* All invited to play one of these very popular tactical miniatures board games. Prizes. *1–5 p.m., The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Tuesday & Saturday.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. *1–3 p.m. (Sat.) & 7:30–9:30 p.m. (Tues.), location TBA. Free. 913–5831.*

★**Garden Tours: Saguaro Nursery & Gardens.** *Every Saturday.* Saguaro staff lead walks through the Saguaro gardens to see what's in bloom and answer questions about the plants. *1 p.m., Saguaro, 470 W. Five Mile Rd., Whitmore Lake (entrance off Whitmore Lake Rd.). Free. 449–4237.*

★**Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum.** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, North University at Geddes. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★**American Girl Series Discussion Group: Arborland Borders.** All girls invited to delve into the world of these historical dolls. Today: stories about the plucky Kit. Bring your American Girl doll. *2 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

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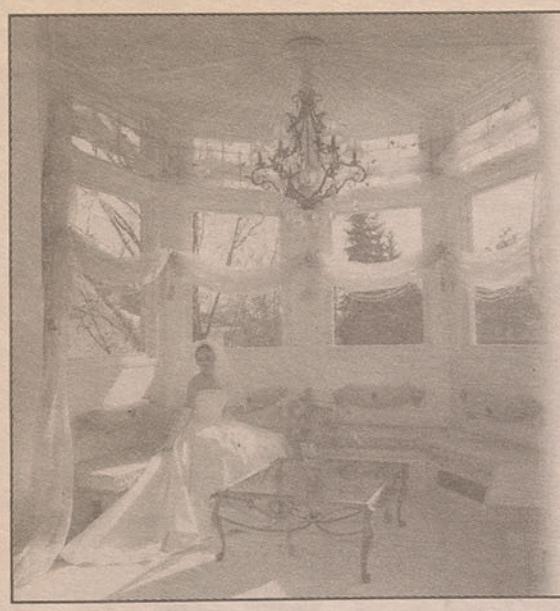

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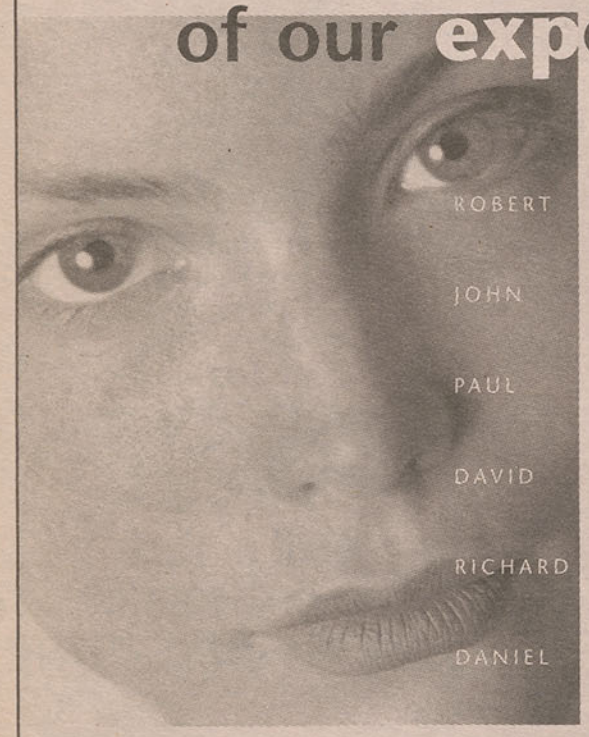

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2 SATURDAY EVENTS *continued*

★**ASL/Silent Coffee Hour.** All hearing and deaf American Sign Language speakers invited to an hour of chat in ASL. *4 p.m., Eastern Accents, 214 S. Fourth Ave. Free. fab@umich.edu.*

★**African American Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, continued from last month, of ***Not Without Laughter,*** Langston Hughes's coming-of-age novel about an early-19th-century African American family in a small Kansas town. *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. Information: Veleria Banks at (734) 942–6013.*

★**Open Role-Playing Gaming Night: The Underworld.** *Every Saturday.* All invited to play any of the role-playing games that the Underworld carries, but you must find your own opponents. *6 p.m.–midnight, The Underworld, 1214 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

★**Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heirloom sewing. All invited. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–7867.*

"Cowboy and Weaving Girl Festival": Chinese American Society of Ann Arbor. Singles invited for dancing to a variety of recorded music at a party whose theme is taken from an ancient legend about 2 lovers who meet once a year. *7:30 p.m., Family Housing Community Center, 1000 McIntyre (north off Hubbard, east of Huron Pkwy.), North Campus. Tickets $4 in advance, $5 at the door. 761–6928.*

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Marlin Whitaker calls to live music by Steve and Cherie Whalen. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $8 (AACTMAD members, $7; students, $5). 332–9024.*

★**Tango Alfresco: Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** Tango dancing to recorded music in Regents Plaza. *8 p.m.–1 a.m., open area next to the Cube (between the Michigan Union & Fleming Admin. Bldg.). Free. 973–2338.*

★**Ann Arbor Uketacular Ukathon: Ann Arbor Ukulele Club.** Performance by local ukulele enthusiasts. Also, a ukulele demo for those unfamiliar with the instrument and display and sale of ukuleles crafted by Ann Arbor Ukulele Club cofounder Terry Horvath from vintage cigar boxes. Refreshments. *8 p.m., Ann Arbor Music Center, 733 N. Main. Free. Donations accepted for the Ukulele Museum. 665–0375.*

"Video Alkalyze": Dreamland Theater. Screening of unusual short films by local filmmakers, accompanied by self-styled "alkaloid jazz" by the Dreamland Band. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. $2. 485–3454.*

"Suds": Chelsea Area Players. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Miss Julie" and "The Stronger": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Search for Intelligent Improv in the Universe": Project Pangaea (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Dustin Diamond: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 1 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**1st Saturday Swing: Swing Ann Arbor.** Swing dancing to recorded music. *9 p.m.–12:30 a.m., Michigan League Underground, 911 North University. Free. 763–4652.*

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *August 2, 23, & 30.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *9 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

Second City: The Ark. *August 2 & 3.* The Detroit outpost of this legendary Chicago-originated comedy improv company lampoons contemporary political, cultural, and social events in an evening of short sketches. The sketches are developed and refined nightly in improv sessions held after both of the regular shows, when the actors take suggestions from the audience. *7 & 9:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 (students with ID, $15) in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "The Train" (John Frankenheimer, 1964). Suspenseful, gripping, action-packed tale of WW II French resistance fighters bravely sabotaging a Nazi effort to whisk a train filled with priceless French art treasures out of the country. Based on a true story. Burt Lancaster, Jeanne Moreau, Paul Scofield. FREE. Modern Languages Basement-131, 812 E. Washington, 1 p.m. **MTF. "The Swimming Pool"** (Francois Ozon, 2003). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

3 SUNDAY

"4th Annual Rutka 5K": Ann Arbor Track Club. 5 km run and walk in Gallup Park. Also, at 9 a.m. a fun run for kids 10 & under, and a free 200 m run/walk for people with cerebral palsy. Awards to top 3 male and female overall winners and to winners in various 5-year age divisions. Medals to walkers and kids-run participants. Proceeds benefit United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Detroit. *8 a.m., Gallup Park, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Parking in the Huron High School parking lot. Run & walk: $20 in advance, $25 day of race. Kids run: $5. Entry forms available at local running stores and at aatrackclub.org. 668–4760.*

★**Horse Show: Spur of the Moment Club.** A judged amateur riding event for kids and adults, including English, western, and halter riding styles. Also, fun games like **barrel racing.** One of the most exciting events in the afternoon gymkhana (speed riding games) is "Indiana Flags," in which a rider races around 3 barrels, snatches a flag from a bucket of sand, and tries to spear it into another bucket. Many young riders get their start here before moving on to the professional circuits. Lunch available. *8 a.m.–about 7 p.m. (races & games begin around 3 p.m. and last until 6 p.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 429–3145.*

★**Falun Gong Instruction.** *Every Sunday.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. *8:30–10:30 a.m., Gallup Park boathouse (west of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 332–0680.*

★**Wamplers Lake Swim Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast/moderate-paced 80-mile ride to Wamplers Lake for a swim and lunch. Also, a slow-paced 40-mile ride to the same destination leaves at 9 a.m. from the municipal parking lot on Ockrow (off Adrian south of Main St.) in Manchester. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 944–0730 (80-mile ride), 996–2974 (40-mile ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Mushroom Foray: Michigan Mushroom Hunter's Club.** *August 3 & 9 (different locations).* All invited to join club members on a hunt for edible fungi in the Waterloo Recreation Area. Bring a bag lunch, compass, whistle, bug spray, rain gear, water, knife, and either a basket or a mesh or paper bag. All mushrooms are evaluated by experts for edibility after the hunt. The club also sponsors additional area hunts (see www.sph.umich.edu/~kwcee/mmhc/ for a complete schedule). *9 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Discovery Center is on the left.) Free. 946–5276.*

★**Shorinji Kempo.** *Every Sunday.* This Japanese self-defense system combines hard and soft techniques with Zen philosophy. *9–11 a.m., Arts in Motion Dance Studio, 2839 Boardwalk. Free to first-time visitors ($25 monthly dues). 332–1780.*

★**"Path of the Inner Tantras: Teachings with Traktung Rinpoche and A'dzom Rinpoche": Dam Tsig Foundation.** *Every Sunday.* These local American-born Tibetan Buddhist lamas discuss Tantric Buddhist teachings. *10:30 a.m.–noon, call for location. Free. 741–1084.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sunday.* A weekly program open to all single adults age 50 & older interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: First Singles member Norm Samuelson reviews historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's ***Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream.*** Also this month: U-M president emeritus Robben Fleming discusses how he kept peace on the campus in a talk titled **"How Do You Reconcile the Irreconcilable?"** (August 10), a speaker and topic TBA (August 17), artist and former Methodist minister Pat Spriggel discusses **"Art and the Spirit"** (August 24), and a speaker and topic TBA (August 31). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

Among the stellar talents at this year's Aug. 2 Riverfolk Festival are world-class harmonica wizard Peter Madcat Ruth and ace fingerstyle blues guitarist Shari Kane.

★**Nichols Arboretum Hike: Huron Valley Sierra Club.** All invited to join club members for a leisurely hike under 5 miles in the Arb. *11 a.m., meet at City Hall to carpool (or meet at the Observatory St. entrance at 11:15 a.m.). Free. 994–7030.*

Artisan Market. *Every Sunday.* Show and sale of fine crafts, jewelry, soaps, furniture, fiber arts, and gift items, plus entertainment by local talents. Today's special event: local singer-songwriter **Jeri Stormer.** Also this month: local acoustic folk singer **Gary Detlefs** (August 10), a **Hawaiian Festival with** dance demos by Polynesian dancers and a dance floor for visitors (August 17), New Orleans swing by **Todd Perkins** (August 24), and singer-songwriters **Laura Massaro** and **Elizabeth Alberta** (August 31). *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers' Market. Free admission. 665–2009.*

★**Newcomers Day: Karma Thegsum Choling.** KTC staff members introduce Buddhist thought and demonstrate basic meditation practices. Refreshments. *11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495.*

Silent Meditation: Essence Point. *Every Sunday.* Unguided 45-minute silent meditation period. All invited. *Noon–1 p.m., Guild House, 802 Monroe at Oakland. Donations appreciated. 741–0478.*

★**1st Sunday Hot Sauce Tasting: Tios Mexican Cafe on Washtenaw.** Tios manager Tim Seaver offers samples of the hundreds of hot sauces and salsas available at this popular Mexican diner. Work your way through 100 sauces and you'll get a free T-shirt. *Noon–4 p.m., Tios Mexican Cafe, 2224 Washtenaw at Hewitt. Free. 528–4444.*

International Standard Accuracy Contest: Michigan Atlatl Association. All invited to compete in a contest that includes 5 throws each at 15 m and 20 m targets. *Atlatl* is the Nahuatl (Aztec) word for a Neolithic device used for throwing a spear or dart, a weapon that predates the bow & arrow by several millennia. Also, the Rod & Gun Club's 30-target 3-D course is open today to all archers and atlatlists, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. *Noon, Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, 7103 Lingane Rd. (south off Waterloo Rd., west of Chelsea). $9 course fee. (810) 231–2314.*

★**Hero Clix Tournament: The Underworld.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to play this tactical miniatures board game based on battles between different superheroes. With prizes from the manufacturer, WizKids. *Noon–4 p.m., The Underworld, 1202 South University. Free. 998–0547.*

"HerbFest": Friends of Matthaei Botanical Gardens. This herb festival is highlighted by talks on **"Beautiful, Bountiful Basil"** by Herb Study Group member Joanna Larson (1 p.m.) and on **"The Role of Herbs in Cancer Prevention and Conventional Treatments"** by local herbalist Joan Wysocki (2:30 p.m.). Also, free samples of herb cookies, herb bread, and lavender and sumac lemonade. Educational displays on medicinal herbs, herbs in soap, and other topics. Tours of Matthaei's herb garden. *Noon–4:30 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Admission $10 (Matthaei members, $5). 998–7061.*

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 55 & older invited to play bridge. *1–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"1st Sundays @ 1": Ann Arbor Art Center.** Kids and their parents invited to learn about Ghanaian Adinka cloth and make stamps to decorate a piece of fabric. *1–4 p.m., AAAC, 117 W. Liberty. Free. 994–8004.*

Gays and Lesbians, Older and Wiser. Potluck and social gathering for gays and lesbians age 50 & older. Bring a dish to pass. *1–3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd., Suite C. $2. 764–2556.*

★**"Wildflowers of the Prairie": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to check out summer flowers. *1 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Gamble Group Center, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. (Take US-23 to Six Mile Rd. & follow the signs.) Free (park entrance fee: $4 per vehicle). 971–6337.*

★**2003 Lecture Series: Saguaro Nursery & Gardens.** *Every Sunday.* Talks by Saguaro staff. Today: Saguaro co-owner Richard Tuttle discusses **"Growing Citrus and Other Tropical Flowering Plants in Michigan."** Also this month: Saguaro perennials manager Rebecca Rogers on **"Easy Alpine and Rock Gardens: Plants and Construction"** (August 10), and Tuttle on **"Winter-Hardy Bamboo for Michigan Gardens"** (August 17), **"Ornamental Grasses for Michigan Gardens"** (August 24), and **"How to Grow Jade Plants and Other Succulents in Michigan"** (August 31). *1 p.m., Saguaro, 470 W. Five Mile Rd. (entrance off Whitmore Lake Rd.). Free. 449–4237.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Cats Meow with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Kerrytown courtyard. Free. 769–3115.*

★**Kids Open Mike: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *2 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1922 Packard. Free. Reservations required. 662–8283.*

★**"Gardening for Our Feline Friends": Zimmer Foundation/For the Love of Cats.** Zimmer Foundation volunteer Monica Milla discusses which garden plants cats prefer their owners to grow for them, if you please. Also, tours of Milla's cat garden. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–8000.*

"Tin Can Ice Cream": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck shows how to make old-fashioned ice cream with a tin can and milk. *2 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. (Park entry fee: $4 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426–8211.*

★**Guild Day: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to meet local neopagans and sit in on meetings of their Magicians (2–3 p.m.), Healers (3–4 p.m.), and Warriors (4–5 p.m.) guilds. The topic for the Magicians meeting is "Runic Meditations." *2–5 p.m., 263 Larkspur (take Pontiac Trail north and turn left onto Skydale, left onto Cloverdale, and right onto Larkspur). Free. 998–1029.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Miss Julie" and "The Stronger": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Search for Intelligent Improv in the Universe": Project Pangaea (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

Potluck Vegan Picnic: Vegetarian Information Network & Exchange. All invited to a vegan (no dairy, egg, or honey) potluck. Bring a dish to pass (with recipe) to serve 8, serving utensil, plates, cutlery, and cup. Newcomers to vegetarianism can bring something simple, such as a green salad, fruit, or nondairy beverage. Rain or shine. *2:30 p.m., Gallup Park picnic shelter, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $1 or $2 donation to help cover park rental. (517) 423–3226.*

★**Ann Arbor–Motown Hash House Harriers.** *Every Sunday & occasional Mondays.* The local chapter of an unorthodox running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's task is to follow a trail designed to be confusing. The usual result is that the lead (i.e., fastest) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer and pop hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant. *3 p.m. (Sun.) & 6:30 p.m. (Mon.), location TBA. Free. Weekly locations available at my.voyager.net/~tashjian.*

★**"Come Together for Peace": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** This family outing held on the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki includes a potluck dinner (bring a dish) and a panel discussion on the effects of using depleted-uranium weaponry. Also, local child actors perform a skit based on the Tawny Scrawny Lion books. Students who recently traveled to Hikone, Japan, describe the trip. Crafts include origami peace crane folding and lantern boats, to be launched at dusk. Rain location: Genesis Center, 2309 Packard Rd. *5 p.m.–dusk, Island Park (off Maiden Ln. between Broadway & Fuller). Free. 663–1870.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to try an outdoor session of this boisterous, jingly, ancient English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., location TBA. Free. 747–8138.*

★**Dan Simmons: Arborland Borders.** This Colorado author discusses ***Ilium,*** his acclaimed, sweeping sci-fi tour de force about a race of metahumans posing as the Greek gods who re-create the Trojan War on Mars, as a team of Shakespeare-quoting robots speed in from Jupiter to investigate. "Beautifully written, chock full of literary references, grand scenery, and fascinating characters, this book represents Simmons at his best," notes a *Publishers Weekly* critic. *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

Second City: The Ark. See 2 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

Weekly Meeting: U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Every Sunday.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $2. 763–6984.*

★**"Timmy P Comedy Show": Goodnite Gracie.** *Every Sunday.* Each week 7 different local and area comics compete for cash prizes. The winner is chosen by the audience. *9–11 p.m., Goodnite Gracie, 301 W. Huron. Free. 623–2070.*

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "Lucrezia Borgia" (Abel Gance, 1935). Stylish, vivid, powerful depiction of Lucrezia Borgia, who savagely claws her way to power in 15th-century Rome after being sold into a political marriage by her brother. Gabriele Gabrio, Edwige Feuillere, Josette Day. Italian, subtitles. FREE. Modern Languages Basement-131, 812 E. Washington, 1 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "The Producers"** (Mel Brooks, 1968). *August 3 & 5.* Busby Berkeley meets the Third Reich in this outrageous comedy classic about 2 con men trying to fleece their investors by producing a play that's sure to fail, the musical *Springtime for Hitler.* Zero Mostel, Gene Wilder, Dick Shawn. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"The Swimming Pool"** (Francois Ozon, 2003). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

4 MONDAY

★**"Back Road Ramble": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Slow-paced ride, 20–35 miles, along dirt and gravel roads to the Dexter Dairy Queen or to Independence Lake. *8 a.m., meet at 960 Forest Rd. (off Country Club Dr.), Barton Hills. Free. 761–2885 & 663–5060 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Monday.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($3), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. The weekly program also includes meetings of the **Writing Group** (1–3 p.m.) and **Fun and Games Time** (1–3 p.m.) with bridge and Trivial Pursuit. All invited. *11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"Summer Movies for Kids": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 4 & 21 (different branch locations).* Today: ***Shrek,*** a popular animated adaptation of William Steig's children's book about an ogre's search for a bride. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Paved Country Roads Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced training ride, 18–24 miles, along country roads west of town. *6:30 p.m., meet at Royster Clark, 885 Parker at Pine Cross Ln. (just south of Jackson Rd.), Scio Twp. Free. 426–5116 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Huron Valley Toastmasters.** *Every Monday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner in the cafeteria. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., U-M Main Hospital cafeteria, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free to visitors. Dues: $48 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 663–1836.*

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4 MONDAY EVENTS *continued*

★**"Volleyball in the Park": Ann Arbor Ski Club.** *Every Monday.* All adults age 21 & older invited to play volleyball. All skill levels welcome. Postgame socializing at CUBS' AC. *7 p.m.–dark, Burns Park (just east of the picnic pavilion), corner of Wells & Baldwin. Free. 761–3419.*

"Circles of Prophecy": Crystal Clear Expressions. Psychic Nanci Rose Gerler channels empowering spiritual messages from various masters, guides, and angels. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore meeting room, 114 S. Main. $15. Reservations requested. 996–8799.*

★**J. A. Jance: Nicola's Books.** This mystery author discusses her characters and plot development strategies, and signs copies of ***Exit Wounds,*** her latest mystery featuring sheriff Joanna Brady. *7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. *Every Monday.* A series of concerts by area organists. Today: Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Detroit) choirmaster **Jeremy David Tarrant.** *7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi, 2250 E. Stadium. Donation. 769–2550.*

Dream Group. *August 4 & 18.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Donation. 662–5925.*

★**"Introduction to BGI Chiropractic": Gateway Chiropractic.** *August 4 & 18.* Talks by local chiropractors Stephen McLean (August 4) and Diane Babalas (August 18). *8 p.m., 1210 N. Maple Rd. at Miller. Free, but reservations requested. 668–6110.*

Karen Casey: The Ark. Widely regarded as one of Ireland's greatest contemporary singers, this former Solas vocalist is known for her 2½-octave range and emotional richness, power, and variety of her singing. Her repertoire is an adventurous mix of traditional Irish music with contemporary songs in a variety of idioms, and her latest CD, *Distant Shore,* features material by everyone from British folk-rocker Billy Bragg to bluegrass stalwarts Tim O'Brien and Darrell Scott. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Monday.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Swimming Pool" (Francois Ozon, 2003). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

5 TUESDAY

★**"Whitmore Lake Brunch Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tuesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 15–30 miles, to a nearby town for brunch. *9 a.m., meet at the Park & Ride lot on 9 Mile Rd. at US-23, exit 54, Whitmore Lake. Free. (248) 437–5067 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Kids Programs: Waterloo Recreation Area.** *Every Tuesday–Thursday through August 14.* Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh presents a variety of nature programs and activities for kids ages 6–12 accompanied by an adult. Today: a hike to the Waterloo **bog** to learn about wetland habitats (10 a.m.) and a chance to learn about **Michigan turtles** and make a turtle craft (2 p.m.). Also this month: learn about **spiders** (Aug. 6, 2 p.m.), take an **"alphabet walk"** to identify natural phenomena (Aug. 7, 10 a.m.), and learn about **rocks and minerals** (Aug. 7, 2 p.m.), **habitats and their inhabitants** (Aug. 12, 10 a.m.), **what animals do in winter** (Aug. 12, 2 p.m.), **wetland wildlife** (Aug. 13, 10 a.m.), **Michigan trees** (Aug. 13, 2 p.m.), and **snakes** (Aug. 14, 2 p.m.). *10 a.m. & 2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Discovery Center is on the left.) Free. Space limited; preregistration required. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★**Storytimes for 3s, 4s, 5s, and Up: Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 5, 7, & 14.* Stories and songs for kids ages 3 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered at the West Branch, August 5, 12, & 19, 10:30–11 a.m. & 2–2:30 p.m.; the Loving Branch, August 5, 12, & 19, 10:30–11 a.m.; and Northeast Branch, August 7 & 14, 10:30–11 a.m. *10–10:30 a.m. & 4–4:30 p.m. (Aug. 5) & 7–7:30 p.m. (Aug. 7 & 14), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"Magic Powerballs!": White Rabbit Toys. Kids 3–5 invited to learn a bit of chemistry and create their own high-bouncing ball. *11 a.m.–noon, White Rabbit, Traver Village Shopping Center, Plymouth Rd. at Nixon. $3 materials fee. Preregistration required. 665–1555.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tuesday.* All seniors invited to play **mahjongg** (noon–2 p.m.) and/or join the **ABC Quilters** (1–3 p.m.) to make quilts for HIV-infected babies. Also, Lisbeth Fried continues her series of talks with **"Introduction to the Bible, Part VIII"** (10 a.m.–noon), and **Fun and Games Time** (1–3 p.m.) with bridge and Trivial Pursuit. *Noon–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Peace Vigil: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to gather to call for a peaceful response to the events of September 11. *Noon–1 p.m., Federal Bldg., Liberty at Fifth Ave. Free. 663–1870.*

★**"Joke Book": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 5, 13, 14, & 21 (different branch locations).* Kids age 6 & older invited to bring jokes to make their own joke book. *2–2:45 p.m., AADL Loving (Aug. 5), West (Aug. 13), & Northeast (Aug. 14) branches and main library (Aug. 21). Free. 327–4200, 327–8301.*

★**"Big Sky Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tuesday.* Moderate-paced ride, 20–35 miles, along flat, relatively quiet picturesque roads south of Ann Arbor. *6 p.m., meet at York Baptist Church, 1220 Stony Creek Rd. at Platt. Free. 971–5763 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Ann Arbor FrontRunners.** *Every Tuesday & Thursday.* Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3–5 miles to run with FrontRunners members. *6:30 p.m., Furstenberg Nature Area, 3000 Fuller Rd. Free. 741–1763.*

★**"The Uncivilized Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tuesday.* Fast/moderate-paced ride, 18–21 miles, to Dexter and beyond. *6:30 p.m. sharp, Wellington Park, Alice at Bruce St. (off Arborview from Miller). Free. 665–8311 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**"The Civilized Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tuesday.* Slow-paced 12-mile ride to Dexter, with a possible stop for ice cream. *7 p.m. sharp, Wellington Park, Alice at Bruce St. (off Arborview from Miller). Free. 996–2974 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** *Every Tuesday.* Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 27th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. *7 p.m., Gallup Park, south side of the 1st bridge (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 663–9740.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Writer's Group: Arborland Borders.** *Every Tuesday.* Local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Borders art & architecture section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tuesday.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 30-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($18 monthly dues for those who join). 995–4110.*

★**Common Thread.** *August 5 & 19.* All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

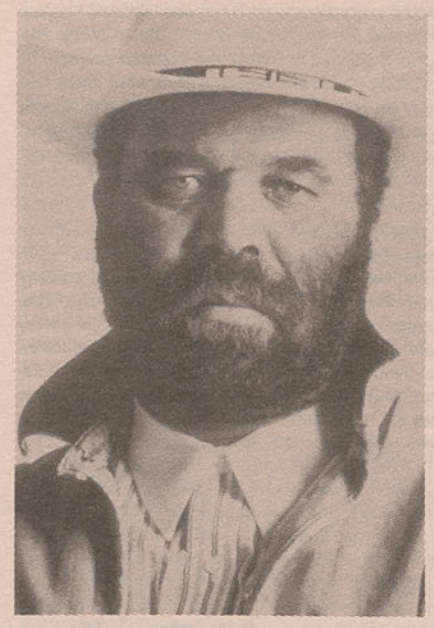
★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tuesday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($116 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Keith Opal at 741–1506.*

★**"Introduction to Internal Energy Development Through Martial Arts."** *Every Tuesday.* Local martial arts teacher Ryan Wilson discusses and demonstrates basic techniques of kung fu, qigong, and yao shu. *7:30–9 p.m., Martial Medicinal Way, 749 Airport Blvd. Free. 975–9429.*

★**"A Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Tuesday.* Talk by **Rimpoche Nawang Gehlek,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. Occasionally, the talk is given by Gehlek's longtime student Aura Glaser or a visiting speaker. *7:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations are accepted. 994–3387.*

blues

Otis Taylor
American roots



Before I picked up on his amazingly haunting new CD, *Truth Is Not Fiction,* my only contact with blues artist Otis Taylor was a brief chorus or two I managed to catch on various WEMU blues shows. His voice reminded me in a way of John Lee Hooker, but it didn't hit me hard enough to go out and track down any of his recordings. I try to pay attention, but with the horrid state of commercial radio in this city (thank you, Clear Channel) and the massive number of blues records fighting for airplay on public radio, artists like Taylor have their work cut out for them catching the public's ear—mine included.

Fortunately, Taylor's upcoming Ark gig on Wednesday, August 13, prompted a second look. The new CD is actually Taylor's fifth. Collecting eleven originals and a cover of Big Joe Williams's "Baby Please Don't Go," it's a rainbow of American roots music, blending a Guthriesque political awareness with the voodoo darkness of Fat Possum Records acts like R. L. Burnside and Junior Kimbrough, with a bit of Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks* Zen tossed in for good measure. Which is pretty amazing for a guy who makes his home in Colorado, where for the last two decades he has been running an upscale antiques business.

Taylor's blues world is a snapshot of good and evil, from "Rosa, Rosa," an upbeat lap steel guitar anthem to civil rights icon Rosa Parks, to "House of the Crosses," the saga of a man conceived during a rape who ends up guarding his biological father in a Russian prison. One minute he's celebrating life; the next he's watching, in the best blues tradition, as horrible things unfold.

Whether he's writing about a death in a slave family (the Stephen Foster–like banjo tune "Shakie's Gone"), being in love with someone who doesn't love you (the blues weeper "Comb Your Brown Hair"), or the last hours of a dying man (the mandolin-flavored "Past Times"), Taylor updates blues traditions while not falling into the we're-in-the-blues-business-now groove, a trap that rounds the edges off far too many "new" blues acts.

Taylor's mastery of the banjo, mandolin, and Hooker-style riff guitar comes in handy, too, as do his daughter Cassie's backup vocals and the occasional touch of jazz-flavored cello. Vocally Taylor does owe a debt to John Lee, but there's enough of the lazy country blues there, à la Taj Mahal, along with a Van Morrison R&B/jazz feel, to ensure that he doesn't fall into the quicksand of cliché. —*Alan Goldsmith*

Ray Benson: The Ark. Solo performance by the leader of the renowned western swing band Asleep at the Wheel. Benson recently released his solo debut, *Beyond Time,* a collection of original songs and ballads in a variety of styles, from blues to jazz-inflected country. His solo shows include some covers, but the only song he does from the Asleep at the Wheel songbook is the venerable "Route 66," which he gives a completely different treatment. He is accompanied by bassist David Miller and fiddler Jason Roberts. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Ann Arbor Ballroom Dancers. *Every Tuesday.* Ballroom dancing to live music by Detroit-area bands. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a dance class ($4). Dress code observed. *8:15–10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $6 (members, $5). 665–2723, (517) 592–5771.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tuesday.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Co., 116 E. Washington. Free admission. 665–2931.*

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. *Every Tuesday.* Short sets by a variety of area and regional stand-up comics. If you'd like to perform, call emcee Timmy P at 369–2381 at least 5 days in advance. *9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., Club Above (3rd floor of the Heidelberg), 215 N. Main. $5 at the door only. 663–5578.*

★**Trivia Quiz: The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts and hats. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Swimming Pool" (Francois Ozon, 2003). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"The Producers"** (Mel Brooks, 1968). See 3 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. **Underworld. "Anime Night."** *Every Tuesday.* Free DVD showings of feature-length Japanese *anime* films (or multiple episodes from an anime series) chosen each night by the audience. No admission after 9:30 p.m. Japanese, subtitles. FREE. 998–0547. The Underworld (1202 South University), 9–11 p.m.

6 WEDNESDAY

★**Kids Programs: Waterloo Recreation Area.** *August 6 & 14.* Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh presents a variety of nature programs and activities for kids ages 3–5 accompanied by an adult. Today: make your own **"Pet Rock."** Also this month: take a short walk to explore animal habitats and draw a picture of **"Your Favorite Habitat"** (August 14). *10 a.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Discovery Center is on the left.) Free. Space limited; preregistration required. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★**Northeast Neighbors: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Wednesday.* Parents with small children invited to meet and talk while their kids enjoy books, toys, and puzzles. *10–11 a.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall, 2713 Plymouth Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Magic Carpet Mornings": Friends of Liberty Plaza.** *Every Wednesday.* Stories, songs, and/or other performances for kids ages 2–6. Today: storytelling by well-known local storytellers **Laura Pershin Raynor** and **Betsy Baier.** Also this month: drama and dance for young kids with **Susan Hamady** (August 13), sing-alongs with **Gari Stein** (August 20), and storytelling with **Laura Pershin Raynor** and **Betsy Baier** (August 27). *10 a.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Fifth Ave. In case of rain, the program is held in the Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Children's Storytime: Arborland Borders.** *Every Wednesday.* Borders staffers read a selection of kids books, sing songs, and help kids make a take-home craft about **"Farm Animals"** (today), **"Growing Vegetables"** (August 13), **"Growing Flowers"** (August 20), and **"Tractors and Trucks"** (August 27). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Art Videos": U-M Museum of Art.** *Every Wednesday.* Screenings relating to the current Rodin exhibit. Today: ***Myth, Man, & Metal: Sculpture of Ancient Greece*** explores ancient metal-casting techniques used to create statues. Also this month: ***The God-Haunted*** explores classical representation of the human body (August 13), and ***Dangers and Delights of Ambiguity*** is a 2-part lecture series by Leonard Bernstein on the music of Rodin's time (August 20 & 27). *12:10 p.m., UMMA audiovisual room, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**Summer Film Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** *Every Wednesday through August 27.* A series of classic film showings open to anyone age 55 & older. Screenings are followed by discussion. Today: ***Emma*** (Douglas McGrath, 1996) stars Gwyneth Paltrow in an adaptation of Jane Austen's classic comic novel of manners. *1:30 p.m., Kellogg Eye Center auditorium, 1000 Wall St. Free. 764–2556.*

★**"Game Day": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 6 & 13 (different branch locations).* All kids age 5 & up invited to bring in their favorite game to play or play one of the library's. *2–3 p.m. (Aug. 6), West Branch, Westgate Shopping Center, & 1–2:30 p.m. (Aug. 13), main library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4200, 327–8301.*

★**Runners' Clinic: Michigan Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center.** *Every Wednesday.* Runners of all ability levels invited to chat with orthopedic surgeon John Anderson, physical therapist Pete Kitto, podiatrist Brad Seel, Tortoise & Hare reps Matt and Monica Holappa, and a rep from Koch's Orthotics. Bring running shoes, shorts, and questions about any aspect of running. *5–6 p.m., MSMOC, Arbor Park Office Center, 4972B W. Clark Rd. at Golfside, Ypsilanti. Free. 434–3020.*

Wine Tasting: Paesano's Restaurant. *Every Wednesday.* A chance to sample 6 different Italian wines each week, in an informal and friendly setting, with a selection of hot antipasti. *6–7 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. Space limited; reservations recommended. $20. 971–0484.*

★**"West Side Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Wednesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 22–25 miles, and a slow-paced ride, 12–17 miles, to the Dexter Dairy Queen and back. Now in its 26th year, this ride is a favorite with newcomers and casual riders. *6 p.m. sharp, meet at Sweepster parking lot, 2800 N. Zeeb Rd. Free. 426–5116 (longer ride), 665–4552 (shorter ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–7:45 p.m., 102 Krieger Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes Rd. Free to visitors. Dues: $24 semiannually. 995–7351.*

Wednesday Night Runners: Two Dogs Running. *Every Wednesday.* All invited to run or walk a distance and at a pace of their choice on a course through west-side neighborhoods. Maps provided. *6:30 p.m., meet in back of 209 N. Ashley. $1 donation. 668–4760.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Huron Valley Model Builders.** All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. *7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Gerraldine, Ypsilanti Twp. (take I-94 to Huron St. exit and head south, turn left on Textile, turn right on Bunton). Free. 481–1044.*

★**Westside Writers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join members of this writing group to read and chat about excerpts of each other's work (bring some of your own). *7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 971–5763.*

★**"Back Care Basics": Guerreso Chiropractic.** Local chiropractor Kathy Guerreso introduces a series of exercises designed to strengthen key back muscles. Dress in comfy fitness or yoga clothes. Refreshments. *7 p.m., 1207 Packard, Suite S-1. Free. Preregistration requested. 994–7030.*

★**Poetry Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** *Every Wednesday.* Open mike poetry readings, except when there is a featured reader. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–9468.*

"Holypalooza." *August 6–9.* Christian pop in a variety of styles by 14 southeastern Michigan bands, in-

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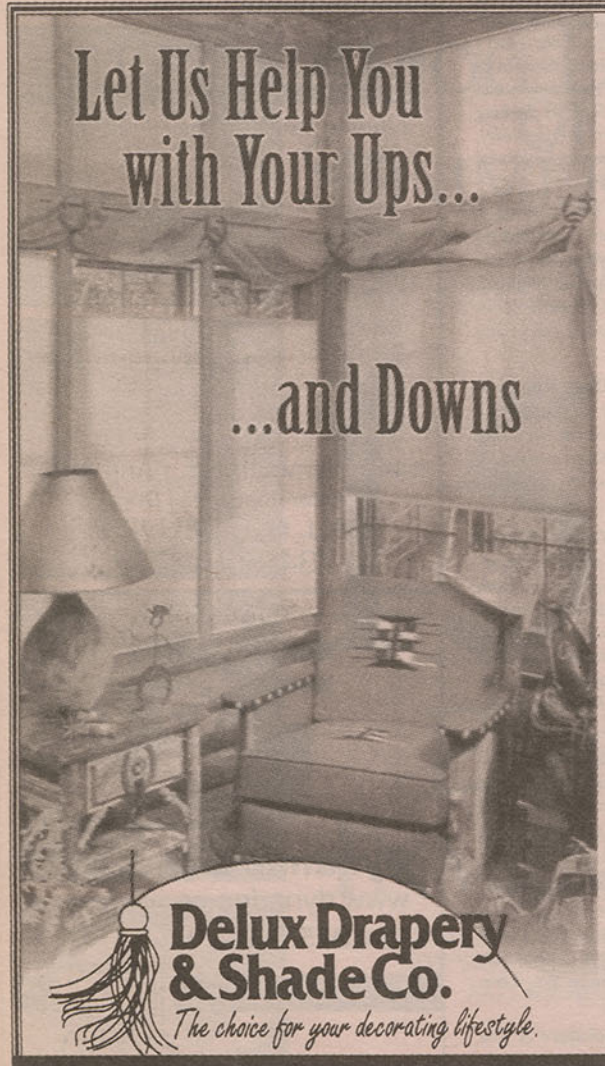

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6 WEDNESDAY EVENTS *continued*

cluding everything from 70s funkadelic and hip-hop to various shades of rock 'n' roll. Preceded on August 6–8 only by a free senior-oriented program of jazz, folk, bluegrass, and skits (2–5 p.m.) and a free praise session (5:30–6:30 p.m.). All proceeds benefit local charities. *7–11 p.m. (Aug. 6–8), 2 p.m.–midnight (Aug. 9), Riverside Arts Center. $5 ($10 wristband for all days) in advance and at the door. 417–5355.*

"Annie": Children's Creative Center. *August 6–9.* Barton Bund directs a cast of kids 5–11 years old in this upbeat, Tony Award–winning musical comedy inspired by the *Little Orphan Annie* comic strip. Set in Depression-era New York, the plot follows the adventures of the plucky Annie and her faithful sidekick pup Sandy. They escape an orphanage run by the despicable Mrs. Hannigan and eventually find a home with the millionaire "Daddy" Warbucks, rubbing elbows with FDR along the way. Songs include "Tomorrow," "We'd Like to Thank You, Herbert Hoover," "Hard-Knock Life," and "Easy Street." This production features the stage debut of Nestle Bund as Annie's dog, Sandy. The center's annual summer show always sells out, so get tickets early. A benefit reception ($25) follows tonight's performance. *7 p.m., Atwood Performing Arts Theater, Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline Blvd. Tickets $8 (kids 12 & younger, $5) in advance and at the door. 769–0019.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's elaborate layout, housed in a restored depot. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter (take Dexter–Ann Arbor Rd. to downtown Dexter & turn right on Broad St.). Free. 426–5100.*

★**Shamanic Journeys: Magical Education Council.** *Every Wednesday.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 665–3522.*

★**Jason Ringenberg: The Old Town.** Solo acoustic performance by this acclaimed singer-songwriter, the leader of the pioneering Nashville-based cowpunk band Jason & the Scorchers. His repertoire of originals and covers encompasses an eclectic mix of roots-based styles, including folk and country balladry, hillbilly blues, reckless country soul, boozy honky-tonk, frenetic rockabilly, and wild-hearted rock 'n' roll. Ringenberg has released 2 solo CDs, including the superb 2002 release *All over Creation*, a collection of duets with an assortment of alt-country stars from Steve Earle and BR5-49 to Kristi Rose and Paul Burch. *8–10 p.m., Old Town, 122. W. Liberty. Free. 761–9291.*

The Krueger Brothers: The Ark. Traditional American folk and bluegrass with classical-flavored improvisations by this spirited trio featuring the Swiss brother duo of guitarist Uwe Krueger and banjoist Jens Krueger and New York City bassist Joel Landsberg. "I haven't heard a set of music in many a day that I enjoyed more than I did the Krueger Brothers at Greenfield's in Ashe County (North Carolina) over in West Jefferson. I was in hog heaven," says folk legend Doc Watson. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to discuss one of Rudolf Steiner's basic anthroposophical books, *An Outline of Esoteric Science. 8:15–9:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes. Free. 485–3764.*

FILMS

MTF. "The Swimming Pool" (Francois Ozon, 2003). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

7 THURSDAY

★**"Jackson County Brunch Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Moderate-paced ride, 25–30 miles, along the less traveled roads of scenic Jackson County. *9 a.m., meet at Cavanaugh Lake Park, Cavanaugh Lake Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area. Free. 663–4498 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**"West Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 7 & 14.* Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. *10–11 a.m., AADL West Branch story room, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Loving Play Day for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 7, 14, & 21.* Play group for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. *10–11 a.m., AADL Loving Branch, 3042 Creek Dr. (off Packard just east of Platt). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Adults at Leisure Coffee Hour,"** a social support discussion group, led by local social worker Phyllis Herzig, that offers a chance to socialize, listen to music, tell jokes, and relax. At 11 a.m., an educational or cultural presentation. Today: U-M social work and urban planning professor Barry Checkoway discusses **"Multicultural Participation in a Haifa Neighborhood."** Also this month: Beth Israel Congregation rabbi Robert Dobrusin answers the **"10 Most Frequently Asked Questions"** posed to him as a rabbi (August 14), Pioneer High School history teacher Robin Wax discusses **"The Most Important Issues in the Lives of 16- & 17-Year-Olds"** (August 21), and EMU political science professor Jeffrey Bernstein offers **"Early Thoughts on the 2004 Presidential Election"** (August 28). Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). All invited. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**2-Year-Old Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 7, 14, & 21.* Stories, rhymes, and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *10–10:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Nature Fun for Kids": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** *August 7 & 14 (different programs & locations).* Today: **"Navigating the Net."** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner uses a seine net to catch (and later release) animals and fish that live in the lake. Wear old shoes if you'd like to do some wading. *10:30 a.m., Independence Lake County Park Gamble Group Center, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. (Take US-23 to Six Mile Rd. exit & follow the signs.) Free ($4 park entrance fee per vehicle). 971–6337.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Tuesday & Thursday.* Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids ages 2–9. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *Every Thursday.* Performances by area and guest artists. Today: classic and original blues and country folk by local singer-songwriter **Whitley Hill** and singer-guitarist **Shari Kane.** Also this month: world music by the **Ginka Ortega Trio** (August 14), swing and bebop by **5 Guys Named Moe** (August 21), and klezmer tunes by the Detroit-based **Avraham Ben Ze'ev Orchestra** (August 28). *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital courtyard, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

6th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. *August 7–9.* 3 days of bluegrass music performed by leading regional and national performers. Today's lineup: **Nitro Hill** (noon & 6 p.m.), Ann Arbor's **RFD Boys** (12:45 & 6:45 p.m.), **R&L Express** (12:30 & 7:30 p.m.), **Bob Paisley & the Southern Grass** (2:15 & 8:15 p.m.), **The Lost & Found** (3:45 & 9:45 p.m.), and **Dave Evans** (4:30 & 10:30 p.m.). *12:30–10:30 p.m., KC Campground, 14048 Sherman Rd. (off US-23, exit 23), Milan. Tickets $40 (for all 3 days) in advance by July 25; $45 (all 3 days), $25 (per day) at the gate. (248) 435–2828. (810) 757–8362.*

★**"Hootenanny": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 7 & 8 (different branch locations).* Sara Melton Keller leads a family-oriented program of silly songs, dances, and riddles. *2–2:45 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch (Aug. 7) & main library (Aug. 8). Free. 327–4200, 327–8301.*

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** *Every Thursday.* A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. *2–7 p.m., CTN studio, Edison Center, Suite LL114, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tues.–Fri. of the week preceding your appearance. 769–7422.*

"Magic Powerballs!": White Rabbit Toys. Kids 6 & older invited to learn a little chemistry and make their own high-bouncing ball. *3–4 p.m., White Rabbit, Traver Village Shopping Center, Plymouth Rd. at Nixon. $3 materials fee. Preregistration required. 665–1555.*

300,000 people usually visit the annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival's huge assortment of historical reenactments and displays, Aug. 15–17 this year.

★**"Depot Town Cruise Night": Tucker's Cafe/ Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Collection.** *Every Thursday.* Dancing in the street to 50s music played by DJ Danny Wilson. Also, displays of up to 150 classic, antique, and restored automobiles by various area car clubs and individuals. Kids hula-hoop contests. *6–9 p.m., Tucker's Cafe, Depot Town, 44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free. 482–5200.*

★**"Scio Sojourn": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Moderate-paced ride, 18-25 miles, through the countryside west of town. *6 p.m., meet at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2075 Strieter Rd. at Scio Church Rd. (1 mile east of Parker Rd.). Free. 913–5979 & 996–9461 (today's ride), 994–0044 (general information).*

★**"Women Running Fit": Two Dogs Running.** *Every Thursday.* All women invited to pair up with runners of their pace and run a distance of their choice. Maps provided. Runners who log 50 miles receive a T-shirt from Running Fit. *6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 668–4760.*

★**"Frank Lloyd Wright Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Slow-paced 15-mile ride on mountain or wide-tired road bikes over the lightly traveled, hard dirt roads behind Domino's Farms. *7 p.m., meet at Domino's Farms parking lot, Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. at Earhart Rd. (north of Plymouth Rd.). Free. 995–5107 & 996–2974 (today's ride), 994–0044 (general information).*

★**"Information about Cohousing."** *August 7, 10, & 18.* All invited to learn more about a new cohousing community now forming. *Cohousing* is a term for an ecologically conscious, collectively owned, resident-planned housing development, such as the Sunward Cohousing complex off Jackson Road. *7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center (Aug. 7 & 18) & location TBA (Aug. 10). Free. 662–4110.*

★**Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health.** Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

★**Washtenaw Toastmasters.** *Every Thursday.* Members develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a supportive environment. Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4205 Washtenaw. Free to visitors. Dues: $52 a year (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 572–9978.*

★**"Fishing Fun": Ann Arbor Parks Department.** All kids ages 7–14 invited to catch some fish. Instruction provided. Bring your own fishing gear if you can, but poles and bait provided if necessary. *7–9 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 662–9319.*

★**"Family Camp-In": Ann Arbor District Library.** *August 7 & 12 (different branch locations).* A family-oriented evening of sing-alongs and interactive storytelling with AADL librarians. Bring a blanket. Refreshments. *7–8 p.m., AADL main library (Aug. 7) & Loving Branch (Aug. 12). Free. 327–8301, 327–4200.*

★**Jonathon King: Aunt Agatha's.** This mystery writer talks about and signs copies of ***A Visible Darkness,*** the 2nd in his series of novels featuring Max Freeman, a former Philadelphia cop who, after accidentally shooting a kid, retreats to the Everglades to live as a hermit. But when he receives a call from his best friend about a recent string of deaths of elderly women, he once again must act like the cop he is trying to forget he was. King's debut, *The Blue Edge of Midnight,* won an Edgar Award for Best First Novel. *7 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**"Fabula Rasa": U-M Museum of Art "First Thursday."** This original multimedia surrealist work combines dance, theater, and storytelling to tell the tale of a choreographer who loses his reputation, ability, wife, and humanity— along with his jacket. He tries to recover a sense of self and "finally becomes a transcendent being or terminally insane, depending on how you want to look at it," notes local playwright Joanna Hastings, who created the work with local choreographer Christina Sears-Etter. *7 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 747–8885.*

"Annie": Children's Creative Center. See 6 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). $3. 769–4324, 426–0241.*

★**"Dzogchen Bright Light of Wonder": Dam Tsig Foundation.** Talk by local American-born Tibetan Buddhist lama Traktung Rinpoche. *7:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 741–1084.*

★**Summer Gazebo Concerts: Manchester Recreation Task Force.** Area musicians perform the last of a series of outdoor concerts in Manchester's downtown gazebo. Bring picnics, chairs, and blankets. Tonight: salsa by **Onda Latina.** *7:30 p.m., across from St. Mary's Church, 210 W. Main, Manchester. Free; donations appreciated. 936–2462.*

★**U-M Sailing Club.** *Every Thursday (different locations).* Talks by club members. Today: Jane Tucker on **"Laser Sailing."** Also this month: Bill Simpson on **"470 Rigging and Sailing"** (August 14), Jim Rennell on **"Basic Boat Repair"** (August 21), and Carey Jones on **"Fiberglass Repairs"** (August 28). *7:45 p.m., 120 Dennison, 501 East University (Aug. 7); Base Line Lake (exit US-23 at North Territorial, go west 6 miles to Mast Rd., north 3 miles to Strawberry Lake Rd.), Dexter (Aug. 14, 21, & 28). Free. 426–4299.*

★**"The Vacation of a Lifetime": Of Global Interest.** Local adventure tour company owner Heather O'Neal gives a slide-illustrated talk about traveling in Nepal and trekking to the Everest base camp. *8 p.m., 120 Eighth St. Free. 369–3107.*

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** *Every Thursday.* Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *8–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pond Room (Aug. 7) & Michigan League Henderson Room (Aug. 14, 21, & 28). Free. 971–1809.*

Beausoleil: The Ark. Led by fiddler Michael Doucet, Beausoleil is one of the most influential bands in the revival of interest in the Cajun music of French Louisiana. Its repertoire includes everything from Cajun, Creole, and medieval French music to zydeco, New Orleans jazz, island rhythms, and southern boogie. A big favorite with local audiences. Dance floor available. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"The Police": Upside-Down Cloud Productions. *August 7–10 & 14–17.* Cristian-Paul Badiu directs absurdist Polish playwright Slawomir Mrozek's blistering satire of totalitarianism. When the last political prisoner in a police state renounces his rebellious ways, the police force must scramble to invent a new foe in order to justify its continued existence. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House. Priority tickets $15 in advance; general seating $10 at the door. 769–2999.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Search for Intelligent Improv in the Universe": Project Pangaea (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Thursday.* Performances by aspiring stand-up comics and by established area pros coming out to work on new material. The show concludes with a performance by the improv troupe **Beer Money.** Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

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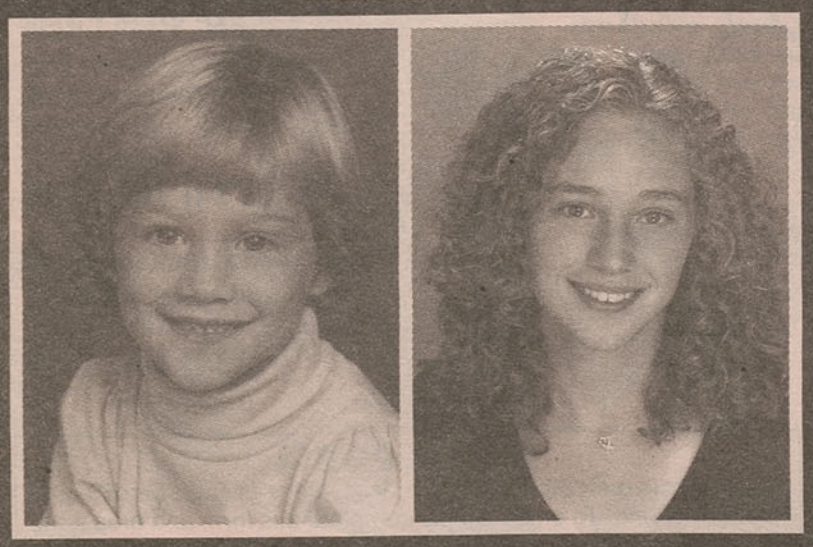

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7 THURSDAY EVENTS *continued*

FILMS

MTF. "The Swimming Pool" (Francois Ozon, 2003). See 1 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

8 FRIDAY

★**"Dressage at Waterloo": Waterloo Hunt Club.** *August 8–10.* This competitive equine ballet by skilled area horses and riders is highlighted by dazzling, graceful freestyle routines set to music, and features moves such as the *piaffe* (trotting in place), the *levade* (rearing up), and the *capriole* (leaping up). Bring your own lawn chairs; no pets. Food concessions. *8 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 8 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Waterloo Hunt Club, corner of Glenn & Katz, Grass Lake. (Take I-94 west to exit 150, go north 2 miles on Mount Hope Rd., & turn right onto Glenn.) Free. 426–2088.*

★**"Game Day at Burns Park": Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 55 & older invited to head over to Burns Park to play boccie ball, croquet, or lawn darts. *9–11 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Dexter Daze": Dexter Daze Committee (Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce).** *August 8 & 9.* Two days of fun and festivities in Dexter's Monument Park. Includes a horseshoe-throwing contest, antique car show, arts and crafts booths, special exhibits at the Dexter History Museum, merchant sidewalk sales, yard sales around town, and of course lots of food and drinks. Today's entertainment in the Monument Park gazebo: children's music by **Julie Austin** (11 a.m.–noon), the popular local clown **Zeemo the Magnificent** (12:30–1:30 p.m.), folk-rock singer-songwriter **Lisa Hunter** (2–3 p.m.), the 1st annual **Ms. Dexter Daze** scholarship competition (3:30–5 p.m.), classic-rock dance music by **Big Pinky and the Joint Effort Band** (5:30–7:30 p.m.), and an eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop by a trio led by local singer-guitarist **Laith Al-Saadi** (8–11 p.m.). Also, on the Monument Park lawn, **Colors the Clown** (3–5 p.m.). *10 a.m.–11 p.m., Dexter Monument Park, intersection of Dexter–Ann Arbor & Baker rds., Dexter. Free shuttle bus service from Dexter High School. Free admission. 426–0887.*

6th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. See 7 Thursday. Today's highlights include two 45-minute sets by the **Osborne Brothers** (3:45 & 8:15 p.m.), the bluegrass legends who perfected the central bluegrass tradition of high, twirling vocal harmonies. Today's lineup also includes **Morning Harvest** (noon & 9:45 p.m.), **S & S Express** (12:45 & 6:45 p.m.), **New Found Road** (1:30 & 6 p.m.), **Bob Paisley & the Southern Grass** (2:15 & 7:30 p.m.), and the **Lonesome River Band** (3 & 9 p.m.). Noon–11:30 p.m.

★**The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center.** All invited for readings and discussion of Yiddish literature selections TBA. Also, singing of Yiddish songs. *1:30–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"Bike Commuting": Ann Arbor Critical Mass.** Members of this local group that promotes bikes for urban commuting give informal talks on techniques for riding with traffic, carrying loads, and maintaining your bike. *5 p.m., corner of North University & State. Free. 913–5831.*

"Annie": Children's Creative Center. See 6 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★**Older Lesbians Organizing.** All lesbians invited to talk about **"Women in History."** Also, on August 23, a canoeing potluck party (details TBA). No drugs or alcohol. *7:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 482–2996.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *August 8 & 29.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's *The Theosophy of the Rosicrucian.* Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway (1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes). Free. 662–6398.*

Matt Watroba and Robert Jones: The Ark. Double bill. WDET DJ Watroba sings lyrical songs and poignant ballads in a sweet tenor voice, accompanying himself on guitar and punctuating his performance with sharply humorous observations. The host of WDET's *Blues from the Lowlands*, Jones is an excellent singer and guitarist, with a huge repertoire that draws on Delta, Texas, Chicago, and other blues traditions. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Police": Upside-Down Cloud Productions. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Search for Intelligent Improv in the Universe": Project Pangaea (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Jeff Brannan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 8 & 9.* This Detroit comic is known for a fast-paced, good-natured show that mixes song parodies in with lots of raunchy one-liners, jokes, and jabs at his audience. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 reserved seating in advance, $10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

★**"Moonshadow Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Slow-, moderate-, and fast-paced rides, 8–24 miles, along the Gallup Park pathway. Weather permitting. *10 p.m., Mitchell Field parking lot (east end), Fuller Rd. Free. 973–9225 (tonight's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** A chance to peer through the telescope on the Angell Hall roof to examine features of the night sky. Club members are on hand for Q&A. *10 p.m.–midnight, 5th-floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left). Free. 936–3626.*

FILMS

Ann Arbor District Library. "The Lion in Winter" (Anthony Harvey, 1968). The late Katharine Hepburn stars in this Oscar-hogging classic about England's Henry II and his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, and their ferocious battle over which of their sons to crown as successor. Britain's *Empire* magazine calls the tale "an 1183 version of *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?*" With Peter O'Toole and Anthony Hopkins. FREE. AADL multipurpose room (343 S. Fifth Ave. at William), 6:30 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Northfork"** (Michael Polish, 2003). *August 8–14.* Elegiac, deeply poetic, visionary fable about the residents in a small 1955 Montana town that's about to be submerged by the construction of a dam. A *New York Times* critic praised the "lyrical, wonder-cabinet mysticism of [its] approach to the American past." James Woods, Nick Nolte, Daryl Hannah. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **U-M Center for Japanese Studies. "J-Horror."** See 18 Friday. Today: ***Vortex*** (Akihiro Higuchi, 2000), a dark, spooky tale about a small rural town that develops an obsession with spirals and a "curse of the vortex." A CJS organizer notes that "this movie takes paranoia and insanity to a whole new level." Lorch, 7 p.m.

9 SATURDAY

Yard Sale: Humane Society of Huron Valley. Sale of a wide variety of donated items. Proceeds benefit the Humane Society. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. off Plymouth Rd. Free admission. 662–5585, ext. 112.*

★**Mushroom Foray: Michigan Mushroom Hunter's Club.** See 3 Sunday. *9 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.). Free. 426–6182, 971–2552.*

★**Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. *9 a.m.–noon, meeting location TBA. Free. 998–9540.*

★**"Volunteer Stewardship Workday": Ann Arbor Parks Department.** All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff help spruce up the trails in **Brown Park.** Followed by a short nature walk, time permitting. Dress for outdoor work: wear pants, gloves, and closed-toe shoes. *9 a.m.–noon, meet in the parking lot at the Packard Rd. entrance, across from Easy St. between Stone School Rd. & Platt Rd. Free. 996–3266.*

"Thunder over Michigan": Yankee Air Museum. *August 9 & 10.* One of the nation's largest "warbird" events, this giant show of WW II–era and later fighter aircraft includes everything from Mitsubishi Zeroes to immense Flying Fortresses. Flight demos. Followed at 5:30 p.m. by a symposium and dinner ($65 includes admission to the show) with talks by legendary pilot **Chuck Yeager,** retired Air Force colonel **Bud Anderson,** and former Luftwaffe pilot **Gunther Rall.** *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Willow Run Airport (off I-94), Ypsilanti. Tickets $13 (kids 10–16, $7; 9 & younger, free). 483–4030.*

★**"Dexter Daze": Dexter Daze Committee (Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce).** See 8 Friday. Today's activities kick off at 10 a.m. with a **parade** from

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The Ypsilanti Home Tour Aug. 17 features 6 properties ranging from this 1850s brick Italianate to the revamped downtown library.

Wylie School down Main Street to the fire station, featuring the Dexter High School Orchestra, the Celtic Pipe and Drum Corps, Boy and Girl Scouts, fire trucks, antique cars, and more. Today's entertainment at the Monument Park gazebo: magician **Jeff Wawrzaszek** (12:30–1:30 p.m.), children's music by **Kevin Devine** (2–3 p.m.), jazz by the **Herrold/Gordon Small Band** (3:30–5 p.m.), bluegrass by the **RFD Boys** (5:30–7:30 p.m.), and honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics by **George Bedard & the Kingpins** (8–11 p.m.). Also, on the Monument Park lawn, **Colors the Clown** (11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.). 10 a.m.–11 p.m.

★**Madbook Club: Madstone Theaters.** All invited to discuss ***The Da Vinci Code,*** Dan Brown's popular thriller about a murder in the Louvre whose investigation uncovers a secret that's been protected since the days of Christ. *11 a.m., Madstone Theaters lounge, Briarwood mall. Free. 994–5221.*

6th Annual Milan Bluegrass Festival: Jim Wilder & Jerry Yates. See 7 Thursday. Today's highlights include two 45-minute sets each by former International Bluegrass Music Association Entertainer of the Year **Rhonda Vincent & the Rage** (4:30 & 9 p.m.) and **J. D. Crowe & the New South** (3 & 7:30 p.m.), a band led by Crowe's unbelievably fast, clean, and crisp banjo playing. Today's lineup also includes **S & S Express** (noon & 6 p.m.), the **Flint River Boys** (12:45 & 6:45 p.m.), **Melvin Goins** (1:30 & 9:45 p.m.), **The Karl Shiflett & Big Country Show** (2:15 & 10:30 p.m.), and the **Lewis Family** (4:30 & 10 p.m.). Noon–11:30 p.m.

★**Young Adult Reading Group: Arborland Borders.** All invited to discuss ***The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants,*** Ann Brashares's fresh, absorbing account of 4 close friends split up for a summer who take turns mailing each other a magical set of jeans. Also, journaling and snack. *3–4 p.m., Borders art & architecture section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Transcending Diets and Dogma to Nourish the Natural Self": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Talk by Charles Eisenstein, who also signs copies of his new book, *The Yoga of Eating. 4 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–9468.*

"Annie": Children's Creative Center. See 6 Wednesday. 7 p.m.

★**Potluck and Circle: Great Lakes Rainbow.** All invited to join local neohippies for a drum circle (bring your drum) and a potluck (bring a dish) to celebrate the full moon. No weapons or alcohol. *8 p.m., Liberty Farm, 4938 Liberty (just east of Zeeb Rd.). Park east of the farm on Dornach Dr. Free. 761–4243.*

★**"Women Hanging Out (WHO)": Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project.** All lesbians and friends invited for a potluck (bring a dish to pass), games, recorded music, and socializing. *8–11 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 994–9867.*

"Bats Incredible": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck presents a slide-illustrated talk about bats, followed by a hike to observe them in the early nighttime sky. *8 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. (Park entry fee: $4 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426–8211.*

★**Full Moon Drum Circle: Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path.** Beginning to advanced drummers welcome. Bring your drum; some drums available. *8 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center basement, 1910 Hill. Free. 677–8211.*

Contra Dance. Carol Jacobs calls to live music by Jim McKinney, Loretta McKinney, and Denise Stein. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $8. 327–0502.*

★**"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club.** *August 9 & 23.* Tango dancing to recorded music. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M are not admitted to the Union after 9 p.m., but those who arrive before 9 p.m. may remain through the end of the evening. *8 p.m.–1 a.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 973–2338.*

"Earthtones Concert": Michigan League of Conservation Voters. Headliner is **Bill Miller,** a highly regarded Native American singer-songwriter who blends contemporary pop with traditional imagery, sounds, chants, and instruments in songs that explore the Indian experience in America, from traditional Indian spirituals to Coyote tales to country-tinged ballads. His latest CD, *Spirit Rain,* is a collection of songs exploring the power of water, which is the theme for tonight's benefit concert. Opening act is **Chris Buhalis,** a popular local singer-songwriter who sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country originals in a rich, warm voice. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25–$100 in advance and at the door. 222–9650.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Search for Intelligent Improv in the Universe": Project Pangaea (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Police": Upside-Down Cloud Productions. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jeff Brannan: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Misha Grey and Friends: Dreamland Theater. Local avant-garde "sound sculptor" Grey joins the Dreamland Band and local trance band Liquid Gods for a concert of original music accompanied by video projections and "texture components." *8:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Donation. 485–3454.*

★**"Full Moon Campfire": Superior Land Conservancy/Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.** All invited to enjoy a family-oriented campfire in one of the largest Conservancy-owned nature preserves in southeast Michigan. Bring campfire refreshments and lawn chairs; firewood appreciated. *8:45 p.m., LeFurge Woods, Prospect Rd. (1/2 mile north of Geddes), Superior Twp. Free. 482–7414.*

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "The Tenth Victim" (Elio Petri, 1965). Futuristic tale of government-sponsored human hunts, and one hunt that doesn't go as planned. Based on the story by Robert Sheckley. Marcello Mastroianni, Ursula Martinelli. FREE. Modern Languages Basement-131, 812 E. Washington, 1 p.m. **MTF. "Northfork"** (Michael Polish, 2003). See 8 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

10 SUNDAY

★**"Washtenaw County Roundup": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast-paced 100-mile and moderate-paced 73-mile rides circling around the county, "searching the small towns for strays." Also, a slow-paced 40-mile ride with a similar itinerary leaves at 10 a.m. from Chelsea Bike & Sports, 1178 S. Main, in Chelsea. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. (734) 674–5786 (100-mile ride), 663–5060 (73-mile & 40-mile rides), 913–9851 (general information).*

"Honey from the Bees": Waterloo Natural History Association. Learn about beekeeping and the world of the honeybee. Also, help cut a honeycomb into chunks and take one home. *1 & 3:30 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Discovery Center is on the left.) $2 (family, $5; WNHA members, free). Space limited; preregistration required. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★**Sunday Tours: U-M Museum of Art.** *August 10 & 17.* Docent-led tour of the exhibits ***The Worlds of Gerome Kamrowski*** (August 10) and ***Auguste Rodin: The Cantor Collection*** (August 17). *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Search for Intelligent Improv in the Universe": Project Pangaea (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Police": Upside-Down Cloud Productions. See 7 Thursday. 2:30 p.m.

★**Astrology Study Group of Washtenaw County.** All invited to chat about astrology, share resources, delineate charts, and hear reports on astrology-related matters. *3–5 p.m., location TBA. Free. 320–2783.*

★**"Booked for Murder": Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Laura Davidson's ***Crime Brulee*** and Diane Davidson's ***Sticks and Scones.*** *5–6 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**Ann Arbor Film Fans.** All invited to join an informal discussion of favorite movies. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 665–5563.*

Mitch Greenhill & Mayne Smith: The Ark. This veteran San Francisco duo plays a wide range of American vernacular music, from country blues and mountain music to uptown acoustic swing. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Timmy P Comedy Show": Goodnite Gracie.** See 3 Sunday. 9–11 p.m.

"Asians in Rock": The Blind Pig. Performances by Asian American indie rock bands from around the country, including **Jenny Choi, Chiyoki Yoshida, Panda Panda, Triple Whip,** and **Monument to Masses.** *10 p.m.–midnight (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $8 (ages 18–20, $10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "1984" (Michael Anderson, 1956). Stylishly dark film version of Orwell's celebrated novel about a man and a woman in a totalitarian regime who try to hide their love from government surveillance. Edmond O'Brien, Jan Sterling, Michael Redgrave. FREE. Modern Languages Basement-131, 812 E. Washington, 1 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Easy Rider"** (Dennis Hopper, 1969). *August 10 & 12.* Classic counterculture road movie about 2 biker burnouts who set out to find America. Dennis Hopper, Jack Nicholson, Peter Fonda. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Northfork"** (Michael Polish, 2003). See 8 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

11 MONDAY

★**Avis Farms Toastmasters.** *August 11 & 25.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *7–9 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room B, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: $18 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $16). 332–1200.*

★**The Buyer's Agent.** *August 11 & 18.* Real estate professionals lead discussions on first-time home buying. Today: **"Buying a Home Without Losing Your Shirt."** Also this month: **"All about Mortgages for First-Time Buyers"** (August 18). *7–8:30 p.m., The Buyer's Agent, 1900 W. Stadium. Free. Preregistration required. 662–6240.*

★**The Barony of Cynnabar.** *Every Monday except August 4.* All invited to join this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on re-creating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts and crafts. *7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at cynnabar.org.*

★**Women's Full Moon Ritual: Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path.** All women invited to join a spirituality circle and "attune with the moon and make magic for self, community, and world." *7–10 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center yard, 1910 Hill. Free. 677–8211.*

★**Medieval History Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of Pierre Riche's ***Daily Life in the World***

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11 MONDAY EVENTS *continued*

of Charlemagne. Refreshments. *7–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669–0451.*

★**"Rock 'n' Rollin' Block Party": Main Street Area Association.** All invited to get all dolled up in retro threads and dance to classic 50s and 60s rock 'n' roll by **Big Pinky and the Joint Effort Band** and old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s by **Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** Also, an appearance by an Elvis tribute artist. Display of classic 50s and 60s cars (to enter your car for free, call Elke Ferris at 995–7281). *7–10 p.m., Main St. between William & Huron. Free. 668–7112.*

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 4 Monday. Today: Ann Arbor Christian School instrumental music director **James Wagner.** 7 p.m.

★**Game Night: Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path.** All invited to bring a favorite game for "a night of play with the local pagan community." *7:30–10:30 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center, 1910 Hill. Free. 827–0152.*

★**"How to Talk to Plants and Avoid Giving the Impression of Lunacy": People's Food Co-op Herbal Wisdom Series.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

The Smokin' Joe Kubek Band: The Ark. Hardcore Texas blues by this band led by slide guitarist Kubek and featuring singer-guitarist B'nois King. Their repertoire features a mix of covers and originals in a variety of styles, from hot houserocking romps and rhythmic Chuck Berry–style rockers to slow, minor-key laments. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Northfork" (Michael Polish, 2003). See 8 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

12 TUESDAY

★**"Good Soil: No Weeds": Good Thyme Garden Club.** Master gardener Carol Brodbeck shows how to improve your soil for growing plants and minimizing weeds. *10 a.m., Arbor Hospice gathering room, 2366 Oak Valley Dr. Free. Preregistration required. 913–6075.*

"Mix Your Own Bubble Solution!": White Rabbit Toys. Kids 3–5 invited to "learn the secret to mixing oodles of bubbles." *11 a.m.–noon, White Rabbit, Traver Village Shopping Center, Plymouth Rd. at Nixon. $3 materials fee. Preregistration required. 665–1555.*

★**Shawn Jacob—The Amazing Egghead: Ann Arbor District Library.** This west Michigan comedian performs a blend of prop and physical comedy, with tongue-in-cheek illusions and what he calls "really strange" juggling. *1–2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"The Naturopathic Approach to Autoimmune Disease": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local naturopathic physician Michele Loewe. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**"Inventors Children's Event": Arborland Borders.** Kids invited for stories about inventors and their creations. Also, a craft. *7–8 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Meet Ann Arbor's Police Chief": Ann Arbor Jaycees.** Police chief Dan Oates is on hand for an informal Q&A session. *7 p.m., Sweetwaters, 123 W. Washington. Free. 913–9629.*

★**"American Chillers": Barnes & Noble.** All young readers ages 7–12 invited to join a discussion of the first book in Johnathan Rand's American Chillers series, ***Ogres of Ohio.*** *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 973–1618.*

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All those age 21 & older invited to discuss ***The Eyre Affair,*** Jasper Fforde's hilarious fantasy about a criminal who steals characters from literary novels and holds them for ransom. Sherry & snacks served. *7–9 p.m., 3184 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***Oryx and Crake,*** Margaret Atwood's grim, wry dystopian novel about a wrecked world where biotechnology has spawned rampant disease, feral designer animals, and worse. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 332–0207.*

★**"Arranging Roses for Fun": Huron Valley Rose Society.** Talk by club president Pam White, an award-winning rose arranger. If you'd like to practice, bring some roses, greens, and a vase. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 996–3892.*

Adrian Legg: The Ark. This celebrated acoustic guitar virtuoso is a perennial winner of *Guitar Player* magazine's Best Fingerstylist award. Legg's compositions, alternately joyful and soaring or moody and melancholy, offer an elegant, intricate blend of country, jazz, folk, rock, Celtic, and classical idioms, and his work is especially known for its melodic inventiveness. But it is the dazzling, dizzying blend of speed, precision, and witty playfulness in his guitar work that leaves audiences and critics gasping. "To say that Legg is a good player is like saying Menuhin saws a fine fiddle," says one reviewer. His live shows also feature deadpan humor and hilarious stories—a talent that has landed him a second career as a commentator-at-large on NPR's *All Things Considered. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 5 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Easy Rider" (Dennis Hopper, 1969). See 10 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. **"Northfork"** (Michael Polish, 2003). See 8 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **The Underworld. "Anime Night."** See 5 Tuesday. The Underworld, 9–11 p.m.

13 WEDNESDAY

★**Summer Film Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** See 6 Wednesday. Today: ***Sweet and Lowdown*** (Woody Allen, 1999) is a comic bio-pic about a fictional jazz guitarist, a haplessly self-absorbed jerk who also happens to be as brilliant a guitarist as anyone in the world except his better-known contemporary, Django Reinhardt. Sean Penn, Uma Thurman, Samantha Morton, John Waters. 1:30 p.m.

★**Native Plant Garden Tour: Wild Ones.** All invited to join a tour of several local native plant gardens and landscape projects in styles ranging from formal to naturalistic. *6 p.m., location TBA. Free. 769–6981.*

★**"Making Your Own Live-Culture Foods": People's Food Co-op.** Sandor Ellix Katz, author of *Wild Fermentation: The Flavor, Nutrition, and Craft of Live-Culture Foods* (see 14 Thursday), shows how to make sauerkraut and other live-culture ferments and discusses the variety of fermented foods and drinks consumed around the globe. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**History Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** U-M public health nurse Ann Garvin leads a discussion of Andrea Tone's ***Devices and Desires: A History of Contraception in America.*** All invited. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 369–2499.*

★**"Building Your Own Airplane": Ann Arbor Flyers.** Talk by Experimental Aircraft Association member J. D. Woods. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Airport Main Terminal Bldg., 801 Airport Dr. Free. 944–3102.*

Otis Taylor: The Ark. *See review, p. 53.* This blues veteran spent nearly 2 decades as a successful antiques dealer before returning to his music in 1995, and in 2002 he won the W. C. Handy Award for Best New Artist. His music is distinguished by his haunting, chillingly deliberate vocals and his piercing lyrics drawing on his experience and heritage as an African American. His latest CD, *Truth Is Not Fiction,* which has been nominated for 2 Handy awards, employs adventurously experimental, sometimes psychedelic textures and droning harmonies to create what Taylor calls "trance music." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Northfork" (Michael Polish, 2003). See 8 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

14 THURSDAY

★**"Nature Fun for Kids": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** See 7 Thursday. Today: **"All about Insects."** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads insect-related games and a catch-and-release insect hike. Bring a net and a bug

Rubber duckies

Playing around on North Campus

"He drove around all day looking for a rubber ducky," art grad student Todd Cashbaugh tells me in the airy Robbins Gallery in North Campus's Art and Architecture Building. "It was so frustrating," agrees Mark Nielsen, the six-foot-tall, white-haired, elflike gallery director. In front of us is Nielsen's contribution to the gallery's *Playground Show,* which runs through August 15 and features around twenty playful paintings, photographs, and . . . thingies . . . by U-M grad students. "We wanted to see if we could have fun making art," says Nielsen.

His piece is a little white shelf with a puddle shape sketched on in pencil, under a map showing oceanic drift patterns of an accidental spillage of rubber duckies from a ship full of toys. "My piece is about the Internet," says Nielsen. "About how things come back to you." I ponder this elusive theme as we regard the shelf with its invisible ducky.

Nielsen's shelf should have been painted blue and beducked by now. The whole show is running behind—it opened days ago. It's a stroke of luck—the incompleteness lets me watch Nielsen and Cashbaugh have fun making art.

Cashbaugh rolls white paint onto a gray background surrounding his big pink flower shape on the wall. Several pictures, flower cutouts, and a man's portrait are tacked onto the flower. "Stop—you're done," says Nielsen, surveying the work. "I can't paint over my dad," agrees Cashbaugh. "I think at some point you have to come back and paint the gray again," says Nielsen, adding, "I like how this blob kind of ended up sort of like a kidney shape." "I've been thinking about bodily functions a lot lately," says Cashbaugh, who tacks on a paper that says, in scrawled handwriting, "Ding ding dong."

The two switch on some animated peep booths nearby, brightly painted boxes decorated with fur, leather, and orange net, and we peer at little mystical movies of demolition derbies and martial arts. One box pings and beeps like a pinball machine. Nielsen draws a connection between the noise and "that ding-dong thing you hung up," he tells Cashbaugh. "People will be able to hear it from there—kind of a . . . harmonic convergence."

Nielsen's nickname, "Uncle Art," is a play on the title of *Anti-Art,* an earlier dadaist work he made that stirred up ire when it was shown in the downtown Matrix Gallery. Nielsen decided to play it safe by adopting a more avuncular name, which became his Robbins Gallery persona and handy alter ego. "Uncle Art can do anything!" says Nielsen gleefully. "Uncle Art never cares. . . . Uncle Art never gets in trouble!" Nielsen's planning some similarly fun show themes this coming fall. With this guy in charge, I'd recommend that you go.

—Laura Bartlett

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center. *Art Center Faculty Show* (August 1–31). Reception 8 Friday, 6–8 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library. *History of the Michigan Theater; Dimensional (Rare: Common); Teen Graffiti Contest Winners* (August 3–29). 327–4510.

Dave's Photo Emporium. *Tropical Light and Visions* (August 1–30). 827–0080.

Dreamland Theater. *Segments—Squares—Orange* (through August 10). Closing auction 10 Sunday, 8 p.m. *A Collection of Paintings about Love &/or Sex* (August 16 & 17). Art auction 17 Sunday, 7 p.m. 485–3454.

U-M Michigan League. *Monotypes and Other Works by Jane Farrell* (August 15–September 12). 763–4652.

Warren Robbins Center (U-M School of Art). *The Playground Show* (July 14–August 15). See review, above. *Collision* (August 22–September 22). 764–0397.

Washington Street Gallery. *Snails/Segments/Spines* (August 5–31). Reception 8 Friday, 7–10 p.m. 761–2287.

Women's Center of America. *Art by Women Artists* (through August 23). 973–6779.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2002–2003 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or www.arborweb.com.

box if you can. *10:30 a.m., County Farm Park, (Platt Rd. lot). Free. 971–6337.*

★Games and Puzzles Afternoon: Arborland Borders. All invited to play checkers, dominoes, or Monopoly and to do floor or wooden puzzles. Kids must be accompanied by a parent. *2–3 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★"5:01 Jazz": MarketPlace Shops. Jazz by the **Dave Sharp Quartet.** Seating provided. Rain or shine. *5:01 p.m.–6 p.m., MarketPlace Shops, 303 Detroit St. Free. 930–6700.*

"Beer Tasting: Pale Ales": Arbor Brewing Company. A chance to sample and learn about pale ales from around the world. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a light appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $20 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

★"The Fundamentals of Extremism: The Christian Right in America": Barnes & Noble. Kimberly Blaker, a freelance journalist from New Boston, is on hand to sign copies of this recently published collection of essays she edited exploring the radical political and social agenda of the Christian right. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★Sarah Strohmeyer: Nicola's Books. This Agatha Award–winning murder mystery writer discusses ***Bubbles Ablaze,*** her latest mystery featuring the hairdresser Bubbles. When Bubbles and her squeeze explore an abandoned mine, they discover a gunshot victim whose murderer may have a bead on them. Also, signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★Books about Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to join a discussion of a book TBA. Refreshments. *7–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 111 E. Ann. Free. 669–0451.*

★"Wild Fermentation: The Flavor, Nutrition, and Craft of Live-Culture Foods": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Sandor Ellix Katz discusses and signs copies of his new book. Katz also demonstrates wild-culture ferments on August 13 (see listing). *7:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–9468.*

Andrew Bird: The Ark. Solo performance by this versatile singer-songwriter, a former Squirrel Nut Zippers violinist whose music draws on a variety of disparate styles, from Gypsy jazz to country-folk, to create gorgeously ghostly musical landscapes that one critic called "an unholy mating of Django Reinhardt and Tom Waits." In his solo shows he samples a number of different sounds on stage, loops them through a mixer, and then sings and plays along with the sampler on an assortment of instruments. His manager compares his performing style to "doing calculus on stage." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $11 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Candy Corn, Christ, and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!": The Rowan Education Network (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). *August 14–17 & 21–24.* Jim Posante directs the premiere of local playwright Antonio David Garcia's comedy about the life of Christ and his wildly eccentric best friends, the Apostles. The tone of the play is a reverent but charmingly humanized look at the reality behind the canonically stylized language of the Gospels. Cast: Sean Ward, Michael Powers, Meghan Bean, Isaac Ellis, Laurel Hufano, and playwright Garcia. The August 17 performance is followed by a discussion with the cast and director. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $18 (seniors, $15; Thurs., whatever you can afford to pay) in advance & at the door. Student rush tickets $10 when available. $95 festival pass includes admission to as many performances of as many shows as you want to attend. 663–0681.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"The Police": Upside-Down Cloud Productions. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Ann Arbor District Library. "The King of Masks" (Tain-Ming Wu, 1996). Acclaimed tale, set on the streets of Szechuan Province in the 1930s, about the aged King of Masks, the sole living master of "change face" opera, who buys an orphan on the black market in order to pass on his skills to a male heir before he dies. Mandarin, subtitles. Free popcorn. FREE. AADL Northeast Branch (Plymouth Mall), 7 p.m. **MTF. "Northfork"** (Michael Polish, 2003). See 8 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

15 FRIDAY

4th Annual Backyard Carnival: Clonlara School. This family-oriented program features a "big-top show" with songs, dances, jokes, and more, created and performed by Clonlara kids, with some help from the staff. Also, carnival-style games designed by the kids, along with a petting zoo, face painting, a moon walk, and a professional clown. Hot dog & lemonade concessions. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Clonlara School, 1289 Jewett. 50¢ admission, 5¢ per game. 769–4511, ext. 32.*

★25th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. *August 15–17.* More than 300,000 people usually visit this award-winning cultural heritage showcase of historical exhibits, tours, musical events, kids activities, and much more in Depot Town, in Riverside Park, and on historic North Huron Street. A **parade** (Sat., 10 a.m.), with bands, floats, and more, begins on West Michigan at Ballard and travels east on Michigan, north on Huron, and west on Cross to disband at Washington. ***Historical exhibitions:*** Living history encampments show life during the French & Indian, Revolutionary, and Civil wars, and African American Buffalo Soldiers reenactors give talks throughout the day. The Ypsilanti Historical Museum at 220 N. Huron hosts traditional crafts demos, the historic Quirk Home dis-

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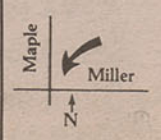

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plays local memorabilia, and the Towner House displays its own restoration plans. ***Open houses:*** Cross Street Village senior apartments (Sat., 1–5 p.m.; Sun., 1–4 p.m.). Town Hall country schoolhouse (Sat., noon–3 p.m.). Fire hall museum (Fri. & Sat., 11 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sun., noon–5 p.m.). Automotive and Hudson museums (Fri., noon–9 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m.–5 p.m.). ***Tours:*** historic homes tour (see 17 Sunday listing), garden tour (Sat., noon–5 p.m.), and Huron Street walking tour (Sat., hourly, 1–5 p.m.). ***Contests & games:*** living chess, "beat the expert" chess and checkers contests, hot dog eating contest, a 3-on-3 soccer tournament, pole vault. ***Riverside Park entertainment:*** a variety of local musicians, including the duo Gemini with family music, the Raisin Pickers with bluegrass, the Classics with 50s tunes, the Stardust Swing Band with big band music, and more. ***Depot Town entertainment:*** local musicians TBA. ***Freight House entertainment:*** the WEMU jazz and blues stage features local musicians. ***Riverside Park Children's Village:*** local children's entertainers offer magic, humor, drama, stories, music, a petting farm, and more. ***Special meals:*** Italian dinner (Fri., 4:30–7:30 p.m.), chicken barbecue (Sat., 11 a.m.–7 p.m.), and pancake breakfast (Sun., 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.). ***Miscellaneous events:*** raffles, millionaire's tent, bingo, duck races, robotics displays. Refreshments available. A complete schedule of events is available at YpsilantiHeritageFestival.com. *11 a.m.–midnight (Fri.), 9 a.m.–midnight (Sat.), & 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Sun.), Depot Town/Riverside Park, Ypsilanti. Free admission (nominal charge for some special events). Schedules available at the Ypsilanti Convention & Visitors Bureau, 301 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. For information, call 483–6071.*

"Alice in Phantasmagoria": Dreamland Theater. *August 15–17.* The Dreamland Puppet Troupe performs this marionette show based on Lewis Carroll's *Alice* stories. When Alice travels to Phantasmagoria, she meets bizarre and magical characters and becomes involved in a strange adventure. *5 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. $5 (children 5 & under, $3). 485–3454.*

Psychic Fair: Psychic Visions Network. *August 15 & 29.* Area psychics offer readings using tarot, astrology, numerology, crystals, and other methods. Fees vary but are usually around $30 for a 30-minute (or longer) session. *6 p.m.–midnight, Comfort Inn, 2455 Carpenter. $5 admission. 320–7704.*

★Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. A concert by this renowned touring fiddle ensemble of 31 students, led by Saline High School orchestra director Bob Phillips. The group's repertoire includes traditional American fiddle songs, bluegrass, and high-energy American folk. Ice cream and hot dogs available. *7 p.m., Henne Field at Union School, 200 N. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Free. 429–4494.*

Hullabaloo and the Beatnik Hippies: Dreamland Theater. Double bill. The local quintet Hullabaloo plays ska and 80s-style pop, and the Beatnik Hippies are a jam band. Also, puppetry and general creative mayhem. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. $5. 485–3454.*

Mustard's Retreat: The Ark. Longtime local favorites Michael Hough and David Tamulevich perform a wide variety of original and traditional songs and ballads about everyday life. According to songwriter Garnet Rogers, Mustard's Retreat "represents everything that is best about folk music. Their songs have entered the lexicon of anonymous folk songs." Both Hough and Tamulevich are accomplished guitarists, and they also play banjo, mandolin, flute, Autoharp, harmonica, and tin whistle. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Candy Corn, Christ, and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!": The Rowan Education Network (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Police": Upside-down Cloud Productions. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Ken Evans: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 15 & 16.* Ann Arbor debut of this Chicago comic with a snappy delivery and a dry, somewhat warped sense of humor who likes to spar with the audience. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 reserved seating in advance, $10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Jet Lag" (Daniele Thompson, 2002). *August 15–21.* Chatty, light romantic comedy about 2 delayed airline travelers whose initial prickly encounter takes an unexpected twist. Juliette Binoche, Jean Reno. French, subtitles. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

16 SATURDAY

★"Huron River Cleanup": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. All invited to join Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck to clean up the Huron River by canoe. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Lunch provided. *8 a.m., meet at Dexter-Huron Metropark parking lot (near the tollbooth), Huron River Dr. (about 1/2 mile east of Mast Rd. in Dexter). Free. (Park entry fee: $4 per vehicle.) Preregistration requested. 426–8211.*

★25th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. See 15 Friday. 9 a.m.–midnight.

Senior City Golf Tournament: Ann Arbor Parks Department. *August 16 & 17.* Open to all golfers age 50 & older. Two rounds of stroke play, with flights established after the first round. Prizes awarded to gross, handicap, and flight winners. *9 a.m., Leslie Park Golf Course, 2120 Traver Rd. $65 (nonresidents, $70). Preregistration required by August 9. 994–1163.*

★Annual Show: Bromeliad Society. *August 16 & 17.* Show and sale of over 200 exotic bromeliad houseplants. These low-light, low-maintenance dinosaur-era "toughies" with stiff, often spiny and colorful knifelike leaves are ideal for those with nongreen thumbs, since most varieties are nearly impossible to kill. Also, numerous "air plants," sale of bromeliad supplies, and demos by club members of bromeliad culture (noon, both days) and mounting air plants (12:30 p.m., both days). *10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 998–7061.*

8th Annual Luncheon Fashion Show: Bethel Back-to-School Clothing Center Fund-Raiser. Fashion show featuring clothing from JCPenney and another local store TBA. Proceeds to help buy back-to-school clothes for needy kids in Washtenaw County. *11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $35 (includes lunch) in advance and at the door. 663–8088.*

"Healing Touch for Peace." Several healing, spiritual, and personal growth teachers are on hand to demonstrate their skills. Proceeds donated to financially struggling families in Iraq. *Noon–6 p.m., West Park, W. Huron at Chapin. Donation. 929–9756.*

★"Wetland to Wetland Hike: Wading the River!": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a wading session. Wear old shoes that can get wet. *1 p.m., Osborne Mill Preserve. (Take Huron River Dr. west to E. Delhi south. Just south of the entrance to Delhi Metropark is a sign for the preserve. Park on E. Delhi Rd. at the trailhead.) Free. 971–6337.*

"Alice in Phantasmagoria": Dreamland Theater. See 15 Friday. 1 & 3 p.m.

★"Dragonflies and Damselflies": Waterloo Recreation Area. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh displays specimens of these fascinating and beneficial insects and discusses their life cycle, characteristics, and behavior. *2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 west to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Discovery Center is on the left.) Free. Space limited; preregistration required. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★"The Story of Ishmael Munch": Waldenbooks. Children's author **Diane Barlow** author signs copies of her debut book. *2–4 p.m., Waldenbooks, Briarwood mall. Free. 669–0785.*

"Plant Studies": Community Farm of Ann Arbor. All invited to a meditative session to observe one plant on the farm. Participants sit around the plant, touch it, smell it, taste bits of it, examine it with field lenses, and listen to it—"If you're really quiet, and really patient, you can hear it metabolize," suggests an organizer. No children 14 or younger. Proceeds benefit local farmland preservation projects. *4:30–6:30 p.m., Community Farm of Ann Arbor, 1525 S. Fletcher Rd. $5. Preregistration required. 475–7451.*

★"Animania": U-M Japanese Animation Film Society. This popular monthly 6-hour festival of Japanese animation features episodes from TV shows and occasional full-length films TBA. Tonight: episodes of ***Wolf's Rain,*** the fantasy series about urban wolves masquerading as people, and other series TBA. Japanese, subtitles. Raffle and sale of T-shirts. *U-M campus admission policy:* No one 18 or under admitted

without an adult. *5–11:30 p.m., Modern Languages Bldg. auditorium 3. Free. umich.edu/~animania.*

★Kids Movie: Arborland Borders. All kids 3–7 (accompanied by a parent) invited to come in PJs, munch on popcorn, and watch ***Thomas the Tank Engine: Best of James.*** *7–8 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner calls contras to music by the Pittsfield Open Band. All dances taught; first-timers welcome. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Preceded by a free open jam for string and other musicians (3–6 p.m.). *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94), Saline. $8. 665–8863 (dance), 769–4220 (jam).*

The Bluehouse: The Ark. Popular all-female pop-folk trio from Australia known for their blend of what the *Scotsman* calls "wickedly mouthy humor and drop-dead gorgeous singing." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Candy Corn, Christ, and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!": The Rowan Education Network (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Police": Upside-Down Cloud Productions. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Ken Evans: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets: Firefly Club. This Texas blues band is led by guitar virtuoso Funderburgh and vocalist-blues harpist Sam Meyers. Regarded as one of the best of Texas's many superb young blues guitar virtuosos, Funderburgh is known for his understated, concise, and smooth yet stinging style. Meyers, a blues veteran who has played with everyone from Elmore James to Big Joe Turner, sings in a gravelly, soulful croon and plays biting Chicago-style harmonica. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets $15 at the door only. 665–9090.*

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "Charge of the Light Brigade" (Tony Richardson, 1968). Harsh, acclaimed, historically precise expose of England's ill-fated campaign in 1850s Crimea, with pompous, self-absorbed officers blundering into a fatal trap. David Hemmings, Vanessa Redgrave, John Gielgud. FREE. Modern Languages Basement-131, 812 E. Washington, 1 p.m. **MTF. "Jet Lag"** (Daniele Thompson, 2002). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

17 SUNDAY

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. From its small Farmers' Market niche 34 years ago, this show has grown to national importance, with over 300 antiques and collectibles dealers. It's the nation's largest monthly antiques show, and some say the best. No reproductions are allowed, experts check every booth, and the items' authenticity is guaranteed. This market is also an important source for dealers nationwide. Deliveries available; food for sale. No pets. Managed by Nancy and Woody Straub. *7 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $6 (children 12 & under accompanied by an adult, free). Free parking. (850) 984–0122 (before the show), 429–3145 (day of show).*

★"Half Moon Swim Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Fast-paced 85-mile, moderate-paced 60-mile, and slow-paced 44-mile rides to Halfmoon Lake for a swim. *9 a.m. Meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 665–8311 (85-mile ride), 665–3961 (60-mile ride), 971–1065 (44-mile ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★25th Annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. See 15 Friday. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

26th Annual Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. Self-guided tour of 6 properties in the city. Includes two 1850s Italianates, one resurrected from years of neglect and the other restored after a fire, plus a 1930 post-Victorian with an Arts and Crafts interior, a 1922 English cottage style house, a loft apartment and the Eleven West Salon and Spa in the 1888 Richardson-Romanesque style Flour Mill Building, and the Ypsilanti District Library in the Beaux Arts style former post office on Michigan Avenue. *Noon–5 p.m. Tickets $8 in advance in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden and John Leidy Shops; in Depot Town at Me 'n' My Sisters, and Quinn's Essentials; and elsewhere in Ypsilanti at Henrietta Fahrenheit, Haab's Restaurant, Materials Unlimited, Mantis Garden Supply, and Norton-Durant Florist. $10 day of tour in front of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron. 483–5688.*

★Latin Dance: Ann Arbor District Library. Local Latin dance instructors Kari Fedewa and Oscar Anda demonstrate salsa and merengue dances and show participants how to do the basic steps. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

Annual Corn Roast and Membership Drive: Ann Arbor Ski Club. Newcomers and old members invited to this membership drive event kicking off the club's season of meetings and outings. Corn, beverages, and preheated grills provided. Bring your own goodies to grill, and a dish to pass. Volleyball and live music TBA. Persons under 21 must be accompanied by an adult. *2–7 p.m., Knights of Columbus picnic grounds, 3991 Dexter Rd. $5 admission. 428–8093.*

★Recital: U-M School of Music. Local pianist **Andrew Anderson** and local cellist **Emily Stoops** perform a program of high-spirited works that includes Prokofiev's dramatic Sonata for Cello and Piano and Schumann's *Faschingsschwank aus Wien,* which cheekily quotes "The Marseillaise," a work that was banned at the time in Vienna. *2 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 665–7346.*

"Candy Corn, Christ, and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!": The Rowan Education Network (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 14 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

"The Police": Upside-Down Cloud Productions. See 7 Thursday. 2:30 p.m.

★"Gerome Kamrowski": U-M Museum of Art. UMMA modern art curator Sean Ulmer discusses an exhibit of the vivid, exuberant, abstract expressionist sculptures of this U-M art professor emeritus whose work has appeared in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MOMA, and the Guggenheim. *3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

"Alice in Phantasmagoria": Dreamland Theater. See 15 Friday. 3 p.m.

★"Timmy P Comedy Show": Goodnite Gracie. See 3 Sunday. 9–11 p.m.

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "Mr. Lucky" (Various directors, 1959–60). Four episodes of the Blake Edwards–created TV series, best remembered for its Henry Mancini theme and incidental music, about the charismatic owner of a shipboard casino and the odd characters he contends with. FREE. Modern Languages Basement-131, 812 E. Washington, 1 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Midnight Cowboy"** (John Schlesinger, 1969). *August 17 & 19.* Emotionally shattering drama, rated X in 1969, about a naive cowboy's journey to the seamy side of New York City to become a freelance stud. Jon Voight, Dustin Hoffman. $4. 764–0147. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Jet Lag"** (Daniele Thompson, 2002). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

18 MONDAY

Carson & Barnes 5-Ring Circus: Hudson Mills Metropark. This Oklahoma-based circus features elephants, tigers, lions, and other wild animal acts, along with the usual assortment of acrobats, aerialists, jugglers, and clowns. *4:30 & 7:30 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $10 (kids 2–11, $5; kids under 2, free) in advance, $14 (kids 2–11, $7; kids under 2, free) at the gate. (Park entry fee: $4 per vehicle.) 426–8211.*

★Larry Kane: Arborland Borders. This Emmy-winning broadcast journalist discusses ***Ticket to Ride: Inside the Beatles' 1964 Tour That Changed the World,*** which a *Publishers Weekly* critic calls "one of the few books on the band written in the past decade that can be considered indispensable." Also, signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★Kids Movie: Arborland Borders. All kids 3–7 (accompanied by a parent) invited to come in PJs, munch on popcorn, and watch ***Barney: Let's Go to the Zoo.*** *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 4 Monday. Today: St. Anastasia Church (Troy) music director **Matthew Samelak.** 7 p.m.

★"First Day Covers": Ann Arbor Stamp Club. Lecture-demo by club member Joan Anderson. Also, an auction of U.S. and international stamps. All invited. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761–5859.*

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18 MONDAY EVENTS *continued*

FILMS

MTF. "Jet Lag" (Daniele Thompson, 2002). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

19 TUESDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. *August 19–23.* Fair rides (5–11 p.m. tonight & 1–11 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday), livestock shows, truck and tractor pulls, and demolition derbies. Tonight: **kiddie parade** (5:30), **tricycle pull** and other children's activities, **sheep show** (6 p.m.), and **demolition derby** (7:30 p.m.). *8 a.m.–11 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, Old US-12 at Manchester, Chelsea. (Take I-94 to exit 159 north; go north 1 mile & turn west on Old US-12; the fairgrounds are 1/4 mile down on the left.) $5 (5-day pass, $15; children 10 & under, free). 475–8153 before fair; 475–1270 during fair week.*

"Shrinky Dinks!": White Rabbit Toys. Kids 3–5 invited to create a magically shrinking work of art and then turn it into a fridge magnet. *11 a.m.–noon, White Rabbit, Traver Village Shopping Center, Plymouth Rd. at Nixon. $3 materials fee. Preregistration required. 665–1555.*

Ann Arbor Indoor Atlatl League: Michigan Atlatl Association. All invited to try their atlatl skills in 30-throw and 10-throw contests. *Atlatl* is a Nahuatl (Aztec) word for a Neolithic device used for throwing a spear or dart, a weapon that predates the bow & arrow by millennia. In Michigan, these weapons (under an unknown name) were used to kill mastodons and other large mammals. A limited number of loaner atlatls are available; bring your own if you have one. *7–8:30 p.m., Wilderness Archery, 297 N. Maple. $7. 913–6283, (810) 231–2314.*

Women's Circle: Essence Point. All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Also, bring divination tools, if you like. *7 p.m., Genesis Foundation (Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church), 2309 Packard. $2. 741–0478.*

★**"Wood Engraver's Network": Hollander's School of Book and Paper Arts.** Local wood engraver Jim Horton and other members of the Wood Engraver's Network are on hand for a slide presentation, demonstrations, and a showing of their works. *7–9 p.m., U-M Special Collections Library, 711 Hatcher Grad Library, 920 North University. Free. 741–7531.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Historical and traditional English dances. Partners, previous experience not necessary. Comfortable nonslip walking shoes recommended. *7 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $6. 422–1170.*

★**"What's Killing Our Ash Trees?": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Talk by MSU horticultural agent Dave Roberts. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 480–7751.*

★**Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***All He Ever Wanted,*** Anita Shreve's novel about the relationship between a small-minded, possessive college professor and his independent-minded wife. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 5 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Midnight Cowboy" (John Schlesinger, 1969). See 17 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. **"Jet Lag"** (Daniele Thompson, 2002). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **The Underworld. "Anime Night."** See 5 Tuesday. The Underworld, 9–11 p.m.

20 WEDNESDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. See 19 August. Today: **beef cattle** (11 a.m.) and **swine** (6 p.m.) shows, and a **demolition derby** (7:30 p.m.). 8 a.m.–11 p.m.

★**Summer Film Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program.** See 6 Wednesday. Today: ***And Then There Were None*** (Rene Clair, 1945) is a suspenseful adaptation of the classic Agatha Christie whodunit about 10 people invited to a lonely island where one by one they are murdered. 1:30 p.m.

★**Poetry Group: Barnes & Noble.** All poets invited to bring samples of their work for the group to critique. Hosted by local poet Lawrence Thomas. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

Dorsa: The Ark. Traditional Irish music by this acclaimed band from the north of Ireland that is led by vocalist Stephanie Makem—the grandniece of Tommy Makem—who sings in Gaelic and English. Instrumentation includes button accordion, uilleann pipes, whistles, fiddle, and guitar. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Jet Lag" (Daniele Thompson, 2002). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

21 THURSDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. See 19 Tuesday. Today: **dairy show** (10 a.m.), **livestock auction** (7 p.m.), and **figure-8 demolition derby** (7:30 p.m.). 8 a.m.–11 p.m.

Kickoff Lunch: U-M Club of Ann Arbor. Kickoff luncheon for the club's weekly lunchtime talks by U-M coaches, which resume in September. Today: a talk by U-M football coach **Lloyd Carr** and by another U-M coach TBA. *11:15 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $9 (seniors, $8.50). 663–7420.*

★**"Summer Movies for Kids": Ann Arbor District Library.** See 4 Monday. Today: ***Stuart Little,*** an animated adaptation of E. B. White's tale about a charming mouse adopted by the Little family. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Northeast Branch, Plymouth Mall. Free. 327–4200.*

"Shrinky Dinks!": White Rabbit Toys. Kids 6 & older invited to decorate a Shrinky Dink, miniaturize it, and turn it into a charm, pin, or magnet. *3–4 p.m., White Rabbit, Traver Village Shopping Center, Plymouth Rd. at Nixon. $3 materials fee. Preregistration required. 665–1555.*

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence (off Packard). Free. 434–5152.*

★**"Those Crazy Vaudeville Days: Family-Style Entertainment Before TV and Movies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Michigan Theater executive director **Russ Collins.** With musical examples provided by local musical theater actors **Emily Phenix** and **Dave Andrews,** who also present a program of "Vaudeville Tunes" on August 23 (see listing). *7–8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Sharyn McCrumb: Nicola's Books.** This award-winning novelist discusses ***Ghost Riders,*** her sweeping tale, which alternates between the Civil War and modern Appalachia, about the unquiet ghosts of Confederate soldiers. Also, signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

★**Liz Larin: Liberty Borders.** This Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter won the 2001 Detroit Music Award for Best Folk Act. Tonight's performance includes selections from her latest CD, *The Story of O-Miz. 7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**Fireside Chat: Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path.** All invited to enjoy an outdoor bonfire (weather permitting) and chat with pagans and the pagan-curious about "our experiences in Pagandom" and related matters. Refreshments. Bring nonalcoholic beverages and firewood if you like. *7:30 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center, 1910 Hill. Free. 677–8211.*

Friends of Dicken Woods Benefit Concert: The Ark. Performances by several top local and area musicians, including guitar wiz **George Bedard,** rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter **Khalid Hanifi,** folksinger **Matt Watroba,** singer-songwriter **David Barrett,** and others TBA. Proceeds to help purchase Dicken Woods (at the corner of Pauline and Maple) to preserve the area from development. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Pantalone's Inheritance": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. *August 21, 22, 28, & 29.* Scott Screws directs Ellipsis founder Joanna Hastings's original adaptation of traditional commedia dell'arte material. The moneygrubbing old fool Pantalone has been left an inheritance, but it will all go to his sister if she is married before her 35th birthday. His efforts to thwart her marriage generate lots of physical comedy, mistaken identities, and other hijinks typical of commedia dell'arte. Stars Screws, Hastings, Aral Gribble, Emily Merrell, and Rick Carver. *8 p.m., Downtown Home &*

The Saline Pro Rodeo offers bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, bronc riding, and more Aug. 22–24 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds.

Garden courtyard, 210 S. Ashley. Tickets $15 (kids under 12, $10) in advance and at the door. 662–8122.

"Candy Corn, Christ, and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!": The Rowan Education Network (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Jet Lag" (Daniele Thompson, 2002). See 15 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

22 FRIDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. See 19 August. Today: showmanship sweepstakes (7:30 p.m.) and tractor pull (7:30 p.m.). 8 a.m.–11 p.m.

★**"Dressage at Waterloo": Waterloo Hunt Club.** *August 22–24.* See 8 Friday. 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (Aug. 22 & 23) & 8 a.m.–3 p.m. (Aug. 24).

★**16th Annual Picnic in the Park.** *August 22 & 23.* Barbecue and other food available. Beer tent. Wheelchair-accessible. *Today's special events:* tethered hot-air balloon rides ($2), a concert by the **Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic** (8 p.m.), and a DJ and dancing (9:30 p.m.–midnight). *Sunday:* kids fishing tournament (6 a.m.), volleyball tournament (10 a.m.–2 p.m.), kids games (1 p.m.), a horseshoe contest (2 p.m.), remote-control car races (2 p.m., bring your car), and dancing to high-energy ballroom, swing, Latin, and other dance music by local band **Ceyx.** *6 p.m.–midnight (Aug. 22), 6 a.m.–midnight (Aug. 23), Mill Pond Park, Mill & Bennett, Saline. Free, but donations accepted. Free parking. 429–5199.*

33rd Annual Saline Pro Rodeo: J Bar J Ranch. *August 22–24.* Old-time rodeo thrills and pageantry, produced by the award-winning J Bar J Rodeo Ranch of Clare, Michigan. Sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, it features professional rodeo clowns and performances by some of the best cowboys and cowgirls in North America, including many world champions. Everything from bareback, bronc, and bull riding to calf roping, steer wrestling, and barrel racing. Each show is opened with a short concert by singer-songwriter DeWayne Spaw. *8 p.m. (Aug. 22 & 23) & 7 p.m. (Aug. 24), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Tickets $9 (Aug. 22) & $10 (Aug. 23 & 24) in advance at the Saline Farmer Jack and Lodi Food Mart; $9 (Aug. 22) & $12 (Aug. 23 & 24) at the gate; kids 10 & younger, $8 in advance and $9 at the gate. 429–3145.*

★**"Altitude: The Story of the First Cancer Survivor to Climb Mount Everest": Of Global Interest.** Screening of local adventure tour company owner Heather O'Neal's inspirational documentary about intrepid Colorado climber Sean Swarner. *8 p.m., Eighth Street Trekker's Lodge, 120 Eighth St. (at Washington). Free. 369–3107.*

Stewart Francke: The Ark. Thoughtful, well-crafted contemporary folk-rock songs by this veteran Detroit singer-songwriter, who was named Outstanding Pop Act at the 2002 Detroit Music Awards. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $11 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Pantalone's Inheritance": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 21 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Candy Corn, Christ, and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!": The Rowan Education Network (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Martha Kelly: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 22 & 23.* Ann Arbor debut of this fast-rising monologist from Austin, Texas, who combines a deadpan delivery and demure, amicable stage persona with a cold, dark comic wit and a penchant for wickedly surprising punchlines. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 reserved seating in advance, $11 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

4th Friday Swing. All invited to dance the night away to recorded music. Bring fave CDs. Guest DJs TBA. *Note:* Although part of the Technology Center building is now closed, the dance continues in its usual spot. *9 p.m.–breakfast, Ann Arbor Civic Theater rehearsal studio, 408 W. Washington. $2. 846–1477.*

"How to Lose Yourself in Trebuteen Days": Dreamland Theater. *August 22 & 24.* Local performance artist **Misha Grey** performs his original monologue, which deconstructs pop culture, Shakespeare, consumerism, the *World Book Encyclopedia,* and deconstructionism. With a recorded score by Grey and marionettes by Naia Venturi. *9 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Donation. 485–3454.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Le Divorce" (James Ivory, 2003). *August 22–28.* Romantic comedy about a woman who travels to Paris to help her pregnant sister, who's been abandoned by her husband. Kate Hudson, Naomi Watts. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

23 SATURDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. See 19 August. Today: **fair parade** (1 p.m.), **draft horse show** (5 p.m.), **queen contest** (7 p.m.), and **truck pull** (7:30 p.m.). 8 a.m.–11 p.m.

1st Annual Lawn Sale: Ann Arbor Jaycees. Sale of a wide variety of donated items. Proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., 1500 South Blvd. Free admission. 913–9629.*

★**Duelist Open: Ann Arbor Dueling Society.** All invited to watch local and area fencers compete in a single-elimination fencing tournament for foil (9:30 a.m.-noon), saber (11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.), and epee (2–5 p.m.). The best time to watch is the last hour or so (the finals) of each weapon period. Epee is easiest for a nonfencer to understand, but saber is more exciting. *9 a.m.–6 p.m., YMCA, 350 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 663–0536.*

★**Butterfly Survey Walk: Ann Arbor Parks Department.** City entomologist Barb Barton leads walks through the Barton Nature Area to learn about local butterflies and what they tell us about the state of the local environment. *9:30–11:30 a.m., meet at the south entrance on W. Huron River Dr., about 1/4 mile west of the M-14/Main St. interchange. Free. 996–3266.*

30th Annual Bonsai Show: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. *August 23 & 24.* A display of around 100 bonsai specimens in a variety of styles, grown by this club that includes "many members recognized internationally as the bonsai equivalent of Yoda," according to one member. Also, bonsai demos. Sale of plants, supplies, tools, pots, and books by members and guest vendors. Rain or shine. *10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Admission $3. 998–7061.*

★**Elena Urioste: Arborland Borders.** This young Sphinx Competition award–winning violinist performs a family-oriented program of classical music TBA. *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Children's Safety Class: Keith Hafner's Karate.** A 30-minute session for kids ages 4–10. Topics include basic self-defense techniques, handling negative peer pressure, dealing with bullies, and what to do if you're lost. Also, at noon, a 30-minute **Women's Self-Defense Class** for women and girls ages 7 & up that focuses on assault prevention and self-defense techniques. *11 a.m., Keith Hafner's Karate, 214 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–0333.*

★**Magic Tree House Club: Barnes & Noble.** All young readers invited to discuss ***Ghost Town at Sundown,*** one of Mary Pope Osborne's Magic Tree House novels about a young brother and sister's magical adventures. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Clifford Storytime": Barnes & Noble.** Norman Bridwell's popular character Clifford the Big Red Dog is on hand to read some of his stories. Snack. Parents welcome to bring their cameras. *2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6475.*

★**Intermediate Readers Book Chat: Arborland Borders.** All invited to discuss ***The Egypt Game,*** Zilpha Snyder's engrossing tale of a group of friends whose love of playacting that they're in ancient Egypt leads to trouble. Also, journaling and snack. *2 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**"Vaudeville Tunes": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local musical theater actors **Emily Phenix** and **Dave Andrews** present a program of vaudeville music and comedy. Introduction by Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins, who also presents a lecture on vaudeville on August 21 (see listing). *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"Summer Music Fest": Community of Christ Church. Keyboardist LaVonne Harris and the Community of Christ Combo play a mix of jazz, contemporary pop, folk, and spirituals. Hot dogs & brats. Proceeds go to the church's preservation, restoration, and building fund. *4–7 p.m., Community of Christ Church, 520 W. Jefferson. Donation. 971–1683.*

Kids Fishing Tournament: Ann Arbor Parks Department. Competitive fishing derby for kids ages 7–14. Prizes for largest fish in each species, casting competitions, and more. Bait provided; bring your own fishing gear. *6:30–9 p.m., Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $10 (nonresidents, $12.50). Preregistration recommended. 662–9319.*

Benefit Concert: Human Awareness Institute. Performances by a variety of local singer-songwriters and folksingers. A fund-raiser for the Human Awareness Institute, a San Francisco–based organization that offers Detroit-area workshops on intimacy, love, and sexuality. *7:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (1/2 mile south of I-94). $15 donation. 665–4300.*

33rd Annual Saline Pro Rodeo: J Bar J Ranch. See 22 Friday. 8 p.m.

Austin Lounge Lizards: The Ark. This inventive quintet plays a brand of country & western musical comedy that mixes classy bluegrass and swing arrangements with humor as sharp as Loudon Wainwright's or Tom Lehrer's. The group's material ranges from upbeat numbers with an edge of romantic discontent to biting political and cultural satire to the painfully hilarious antidrinking song "Old Blevins" to

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a full-tilt bluegrass version of Pink Floyd's "Brain Damage." The Lizards' latest CD, *Never an Adult Moment*, features such juicy titles as "Rasputin's HMO" and "Forty Years Old and I'm Living in My Mom's Garage," along with "The Illusion Travels by Stock Car," the (understandably) first effort to explore the connections between NASCAR icon Richard Petty and surrealist filmmaker Luis Bunuel. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $17.50 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Candy Corn, Christ, and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!": The Rowan Education Network (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 14 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Martha Kelly: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 22 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Theater du Frolicke e Macabre: Dreamland Theater. These sideshow performance artists "perform feats of pain and dexterity". *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross St., Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Tickets $5 in advance, $7 at the door. 657–2337.*

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. See 2 Saturday. 8:15 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear).

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "The Private Affairs of Bel Ami" (Albert Lewin, 1947). A callous gigolo in 19th-century Paris claws his way into the aristocracy at the expense of true love. Based on the novel by Guy de Maupassant. George Sanders, Angela Lansbury. FREE. Modern Languages Basement-131, 812 E. Washington, 1 p.m. **MTF. "Le Divorce"** (James Ivory, 2003). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

24 SUNDAY

★Jackson Parlor & Muster Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Moderate- and fast-paced 100-mile rides over scenic roads to Jackson to visit the Parlor (formerly the All-Star Dairy), one of the most popular ice cream parlors in southeastern Michigan. Followed by a ride through the Civil War Muster in Cascades Park. Also, at 10 a.m., a 40-mile ride to the same destination leaves from the Grass Lake Depot on Michigan Ave. *7:30 a.m. (moderate pace) & 9 a.m. (fast pace), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 663–2540 (100-mile fast ride), 944–0730 (100-mile moderate ride), 973–9225 (40-mile ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

"The Monarch Butterfly": Waterloo Natural History Association. Naturalist Tom Hodgson discusses the life cycle and annual migration of the monarch butterfly and how to identify, find, and raise monarch caterpillars. *2–3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd., Chelsea. (Take I-94 to exit 157, follow Pierce Rd. north to Bush Rd., and go west on Bush Rd. The Discovery Center is on the left.) $2 (family, $5; WNHA members, free). Space limited; preregistration required. $4 vehicle entry fee, unless you already have a state motor vehicle permit ($20 per year). 475–3170.*

★Comic Opera Guild: Ann Arbor District Library. Local Comic Opera Guild cofounders Tom and Pat Petiet, tenor Mitch Gilbert, and soprano Kara Alfano perform some of the funniest songs in the comic opera repertoire, including songs from *Orpheus in the Underworld, Die Fledermaus, A Night in Venice*, and *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein. 2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★"The Welcome Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Easy, slow-paced ride, 1–20 miles, for novice riders. *2 p.m., meet at Northside School parking lot, 912 Barton Dr. Free. 845–6376 (today's ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

"Candy Corn, Christ, and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!": The Rowan Education Network (Performance Network TreeTown Performance Festival). See 14 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 2 p.m.

★"Auguste Rodin: The Cantor Collection": U-M Museum of Art. Talk by UMMA assistant director Carole McNamara. *3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★"Drummunity Drum Circle." Local drummer Lori Fithian leads this exuberant drum circle. Bring a drum or borrow one of hers. *3–5 p.m., People's Food Co-op, 216 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 426–7818.*

plays

Blithe Spirit

Wives, words, and martinis

Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* is about as frothy as theater gets. It's 1930s baronial Scotland. People dress for dinner and drape themselves languidly over the furniture drawling things like "Anyone can write books, but it takes an artist to make a dry martini." You get the feeling that marriage required less soul-searching then, but a great deal more skill at repartee: the middle-aged Condomines usually pass the time swatting each other's witticisms, and as the play opens, they've arranged a special diversion for their privileged, irreverent selves and a few friends—they've invited the local spiritualist/nutcase over for dinner and a séance. To Mr. Condomine's surprise, the evening conjures the spirit of his departed first wife. As comedy (or, for that matter, tragedy) would demand, he begins to find her more alluring than his present spouse.

Imagine *Ethan Frome* as farce, and that pretty much sums up the rest of the plot: boy has girl, boy meets girl, boy is condemned for eternity wishing he'd never met either girl.

For a play as weightless and evanescent as this one, it has some delightfully good ballast anchoring it to this world. The heavy set, of damask and polished wood, would probably fool the queen herself (it is appropriately stocked wall to wall with dead ancestors and assorted taxidermy, all gazing on the proceedings like a sort of gallery of spooks). The costumes come from whatever extraordinary reservoir the Purple Rose draws from when it does these midcentury period pieces (I was equally infatuated with last summer's *Born Yesterday* wardrobe, from roughly the same era). And for all the fluffiness, it clocks in at a very nonfluffy three acts and two intermissions.

The real assets of the production are the cast, for while *Blithe Spirit* is farce, it wants swift, delicate understatement rather than in-your-face buffoonery. And, mostly, that's what it gets. Sandra Birch as Madame Arcati (the medium) is the only one who plays her part a bit too broadly—I would argue that her success in actually conjuring two spirits suggests that the character is really a consummate professional rather than an off-the-charts lunatic (the interpretation Birch favors). Yet, for all that, she's fun: let's just say that this theater is a bit too small for her. The rest do a great job of effortlessly keeping the dialogue aloft. Special treats are Terry Heck, who sports a particularly elaborate Scottish accent, and Malcolm Tulip, a gifted physical actor who reins it all in to play a part defined by word calisthenics—and is rewarded with a great moment of physical comedy at the end.

Blithe Spirit continues its summer run, Wednesday through Sunday, through August 30. —*Sonia Kovacs*

★"Celebration of Speech: Poems and Speeches": 5–6–7–8 Summer Players (Nicola's Books). Billie Ochberg directs this local youth theater group in a program of monologues and choral recitations of speeches about the importance of tolerance, speaking out, and the stages of life. Works include former Maine senator Margaret Chase Smith's famous 1950 anti-McCarthyism speech, poems by Shel Silverstein, and excerpts from works by Shakespeare and Mark Twain. *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–4110.*

"How to Lose Yourself in Trebuteen Days": Dreamland Theater. See 22 Friday. 7 p.m.

33rd Annual Saline Pro Rodeo: J Bar J Ranch. See 22 Friday. 7 p.m.

Little Feat: The Ark. Legendary 70s southern-rock band from L.A. known for its artful melding of blues, R&B, country, and rock 'n' roll sensibilities. Disbanded after the departure of the late Lowell George in 1979, the band was re-formed in 1988 by several original members, including guitarist Paul Barrere, keyboardist Bill Payne, drummer Riches Hayward, bassist Kenny Gradney, and percussionist Sam Clayton. The current lineup also includes guitarist and trumpeter Fred Tackett and percussionist Shaun Murphy. The band has a brand-new live CD. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 in advance at Borders on Liberty, Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Colin Stetson: Kerrytown Concert House "Jazz at the Edge." This San Francisco saxophonist (and U-M grad) performed with Tom Waits last spring on *The Late Show with David Letterman*. Stetson can be heard on Waits's recent releases *Alice* and *Blood Money* and recently released 2 solo albums of his "trademarked brand of stompingly good jazz," as one critic put it. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5) in advance and at the door. 769–2999.*

★"Timmy P Comedy Show": Goodnite Gracie. See 3 Sunday. 9–11 p.m.

FILMS

Cinema Guild. "Martha Graham Shorts" (various directors, 1957–60). ***A Dancer's World*** offers a behind-the-scenes look at Graham's modern dance company, and ***Night Journey*** and ***Appalachian Spring*** feature Graham in 2 of her ballets. FREE. Modern Languages Basement-131, 812 E. Washington, 1 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "The French Connection"** (William Friedkin, 1971). *August 24 & 26.* Suspenseful action thriller about a tough New York City cop determined to stop a smuggled heroin shipment. Gene Hackman. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Le Divorce"** (James Ivory, 2003). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

25 MONDAY

Summer Organ Series: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. See 4 Monday. Today: St. Matthew's and St. Joseph's Episcopal Church (Detroit) music director **Tim Huth.** 7 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Le Divorce" (James Ivory, 2003). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

26 TUESDAY

★"Christian Science in the Health Care Setting": U-M Multicultural Health Series. Talk by Christian Scientist spiritual healer **Honor Hill,** president of the First Church of Christ, Scientist headquarters in Boston. *Noon–1 p.m., University Hospital room UH 2G321 (second floor, west end of the hospital). Free. 615–1404.*

★Martha's Trouble and Ralston Bowles: The Ark "Take a Chance Tuesdays." Double bill. Martha's Trouble is singer-songwriters Rob and Jen Slocumb, an acoustic husband-and-wife duo from Hamilton, Ontario, known for their haunting songs about the romance of ordinary life. Bowles is a Grand Rapids singer-songwriter whose songs are known for their nervy, biting wit. "Ralston Bowles's music is a puckish satire on the mores of contemporary society—a droll spoof aimed at the head and the heart," says WYCE-FM (Grand Rapids) station manager Michael Packer. "He's the Cheshire Cat of the folksters, slyly romping in an unpredictable wonderland." Part of a monthly series of free concerts featuring lesser-known artists on the roster of the prestigious local management agency Fleming & Associates. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 761–1451.*

"Tuesday Tickler": The Heidelberg Club Above. See 5 Tuesday. 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Le Divorce" (James Ivory, 2003). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"The French Connection"** (William Friedkin, 1971). See 24 Sunday. Mich., times TBA. **The Underworld. "Anime Night."** See 5 Tuesday. The Underworld, 9–11 p.m.

27 WEDNESDAY

★Summer Film Series: U-M Turner Geriatric Services Learning in Retirement Program. See 6 Wednesday. Today: ***A Fish Called Wanda*** (Charles Crichton, 1988) is a delightful farce about a straitlaced English barrister who falls for a sexy bank robber and her vicious but wacky gang. John Cleese, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kevin Kline, Michael Palin. 1:30 p.m.

★"Eastern White Cedar Bonsai": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Lecture-demo by nationally-known local bonsai expert Bruce Baker. All invited. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. (419) 474–8366.*

★Nonfiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble. All invited to discuss ***A Short History of Nearly Everything,*** veteran travel writer Bill Bryson's encyclopedic survey of the current state of scientific knowledge and the history behind it. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★"Tales of Free Women from the Tantric Tradition": Dam Tsig Foundation. Talk by local ordained Buddhist practitioner Sangchen Tsomo. *7:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free. 741–1084.*

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Weird Wednesday": Dreamland Theater. Open stage for off-the-wall performance artists, monologists, "self-styled comics, musicians, and other avant bards." Performers can sign up shortly before the show. *8:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Donation. 485–3454.*

FILMS

MTF. "Le Divorce" (James Ivory, 2003). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

28 THURSDAY

★Arts and Crafts Workshop: Arborland Borders. All kids invited to use recycled materials to create an art project. *2–3 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

Women with Wings West. All women age 8 & older invited to join a chanting circle. Includes traditional and contemporary chants from a variety of spiritual traditions. *7–8:30 p.m., 1107 Pearl, Ypsilanti. $3 donation. 483–6420, 482–0553.*

★Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club. All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. Kids welcome. "We try to always have something for the younger crowd to tinker with," notes an organizer. *7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Jackson Ave., behind KFC). Free. 332–1000.*

"Pantalone's Inheritance": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 21 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm Night": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Le Divorce" (James Ivory, 2003). See 22 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

29 FRIDAY

"School's Out Kidtivities": White Rabbit Toys. Kids 6 & older invited to create an eye-popping

"Opti-Art Magnet" ($3), 2 dainty **"Forest Fairies"** ($5), or a **"Friendship Pin"** ($3). They can also **"Paint a Lizard"** ($8) or delve into the icky yet strangely attractive **"Science of Slime"** ($3). *11 a.m.–noon, White Rabbit, Traver Village Shopping Center, Plymouth Rd. at Nixon. Materials fees. Preregistration required. 665–1555.*

★**"Last Friday Ride": Ann Arbor Critical Mass.** Join members of this local group that promotes bikes for urban commuting for a leisurely round-trip downtown ride sprinkled with a few pro-bike chants. *4:30 p.m., corner of North University & State. Free. 913–5831.*

★**"You Are Here Traveling with JohnnyJet.com: The Ultimate Internet Travel Guide": Barnes & Noble.** Eric Leebow is on hand to sign copies of his guide to Internet travel sites. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"Cosmos Songs": Dreamland Theater. *August 29 & 30 and September 5 & 6.* Screening of 6 short films by local indie filmmaker Craig Baker, including the premiere of a documentary on the music of avant-garde jazz musician Sun Ra, narrated by local poet and jazz buff Arwulf Arwulf. *7:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 44 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Donation. 485–3454.*

★**Chant Night: Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path.** All invited to join local pagans to learn, recite, and sing catchy pagan chants like "Fur and Feather," "Blood of the Ancients," and "Mother, I Feel You under My Feet." Bring a chant (handouts appreciated) and a tape recorder. *8 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center, 1910 Hill. Free. 677–8211.*

★**"Artscapade": U-M Museum of Art.** This popular evening of art-related fun features hilarious mock tours, art projects, free posters, refreshments, prizes, and live entertainment TBA. Although it's aimed at incoming U-M students, the public is welcome. *8 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State at South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

"Pantalone's Inheritance": Ellipsis Theater Ensemble. See 21 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 8 p.m.

Steven Bills: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *August 29 & 30.* Ann Arbor debut of this young comic whose smooth, low-key delivery masks a skewed sense of humor compounded of a provoking, often disorienting blend of the sophisticated and the silly. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 reserved seating in advance, $10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

Hawaiian Beach Party: Parents Without Partners. All adults invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s–90s music played by a DJ from Imperial Sound. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $7 (PWP members, $5). 973–1933.*

Karrin Allyson: The Firefly Club. *August 29 & 30.* This highly regarded young jazz singer from Kansas City is best known for the expressive elegance of her readings of ballads and for her nimble scat singing. Her wide-ranging repertoire is reflected in her recent recordings on the Concord Jazz label, which include *From Paris to Rio* (an anthology of romantic classics), the Grammy-nominated *Ballads: Remembering John Coltrane*, and the recent *In Blue*, a collection of blues. *9 & 11 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. $20 at the door only. 665–9090.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Camp" (Todd Graf, 2003). *August 29 & 30.* Teen comedy about a failed songwriter who gets a job at a performing arts camp that might be his ticket back to the big time. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25); MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

30 SATURDAY

16th Annual Great Green Yard Sale: Buddhist Society of Compassionate Wisdom. *August 30 & 31 and September 1.* A recycler's bonanza, this popular 3-day sale includes a wide range of donated items (clothing, books, dishes, furniture, plants, etc.) and discarded items scavenged from local streets and from landlords remodeling their apartments. These include chairs, sofas, desks, dressers, kitchen tables, lamps, drapes, curtains, and more—all cleaned and repaired by Zen Buddhist Temple staff and volunteers. *Note:* No early sales. *9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Aug. 30 & Sept. 1) & noon–5 p.m. (Aug. 31), Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Free admission. 761–6520.*

★**Michigan Dahlia Association Show.** *August 30 & 31.* Display of some 1,000 dahlias, some with blooms more than 16 inches across, in every color except blue. Also, an "Honor Table" with especially fine specimens and a contest for the largest bloom. The show concludes with a dahlia sale at 5 p.m. on August 31. *Noon–4:30 p.m. (Aug. 30) & 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. (Aug. 31), U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 426–1609.*

★**27th Annual Labor Day Weekend Festival: Old St. Patrick's Church.** *August 30–September 1.* A popular community event offering children's games and entertainment, a bingo tent, a beer tent, a Las Vegas gambling tent, a bazaar tent, a prize raffle, lots of food, and dancing to live music every night. *Noon–midnight (Aug. 30 & 31) & noon–6 p.m. (Sept. 1), Old St. Pat's fairgrounds, 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd. at Northfield Church Rd. (3 miles north of Ann Arbor). Free admission. 662–8141.*

U-M Football vs. CMU. *12:10 p.m., Michigan Stadium. $46–$54. 764–0247.*

German Park Picnic. Old-fashioned German dinner served a la carte (approximately $5–$7) with wine, beer, pop, and coffee for sale. Dancing to German and American music by **Spass.** *4–11 p.m., German Park, 5548 Pontiac Trail (7 miles north of Ann Arbor; look for the banners and signs marking the entrance). $5 (children 12 & under, free). No one under 21 admitted without parent or legal guardian. 769–0048 (weekdays).*

★**Game Night: Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project.** All invited to bring their favorite card or board game to play. *7–9 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 995–9867.*

"Cosmos Songs": Dreamland Theater. See 29 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**New Moon Drum Circle: Seven Generations Community Center/Sacred Path.** All invited to join local pagans for drumming. *8–10 p.m., Seven Generations Community Center, 1910 Hill. Free. 827–0152.*

Karrin Allyson: The Firefly Club. See 29 Friday. 8 & 10 p.m.

"Blithe Spirit": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 1 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Steven Bills: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 29 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** See 2 Saturday. 8:15 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear).

FILMS

MTF. "Camp" (Todd Graf, 2003). See 29 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

31 SUNDAY

★**"Lenawee Lark": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast-paced 100-mile ride through Lenawee County to Adrian for lunch. Also, a moderate-paced 40-mile ride to the same destination leaves at 9 a.m. from the municipal parking lot on Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., and a slow-paced 35-mile ride leaves at 10 a.m. from the city parking lot on US-12 in Clinton. *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 426–9289 (100-mile ride), (313) 426–8360 (40-mile ride), 913–9851 (general information).*

★**68th Annual Saline Community Fair.** *August 31–September 6.* This old-fashioned community fair features agricultural and craft exhibits, livestock judging, horse shows, talent contests, tractor pulls, demolition derbies on September 1 & 6, and much more. Admission includes unlimited carnival rides, which begin Wednesday. *Noon–11 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Free (Sun.), $8 (Mon.–Thurs.), & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) admission. Children 1 & younger, free. Seniors admitted free on Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. 429–4494.*

★**"Dancing in the Streets 2003": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance.** Whoop it up at any of 6 dance areas with live musicians on Main Street. Includes contra, swing, Cajun, Scandinavian, square, belly, and English country dancing. Live music by the II-V-I Orchestra, the Johnstown Cats, Maison Bleue, Sheila Ritter, Sari Brown, Cat's Eye, and Jim and Cindy Morgan. Live dance performance by kids from the Swing City Dance Studio, and fiddling and clogging by Fiddle Pie. Also, kids activities. *2–7 p.m., downtown Main St. area. Free admission. 665–8863, 663–9860.*

★**"Timmy P Comedy Show": Goodnite Gracie.** See 3 Sunday. 9–11 p.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Young Frankenstein" (Mel Brooks, 1974). Hilarious parody of old Frankenstein movies. Gene Wilder, Peter Boyle, Marty Feldman, Teri Garr, Cloris Leachman. $8 (children, students, & seniors, $6.25; MTF members, $5.50). 668–8480. Michigan Theater, times TBA.

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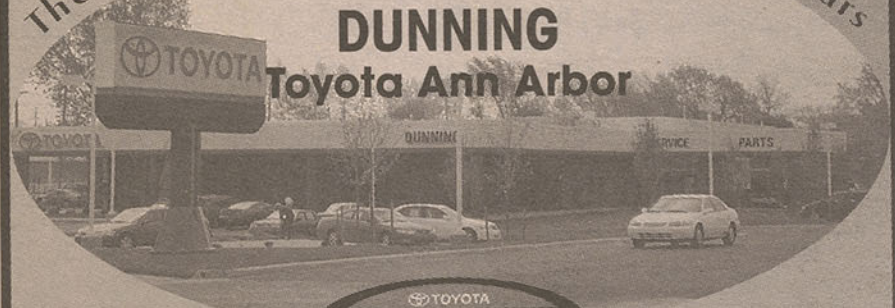

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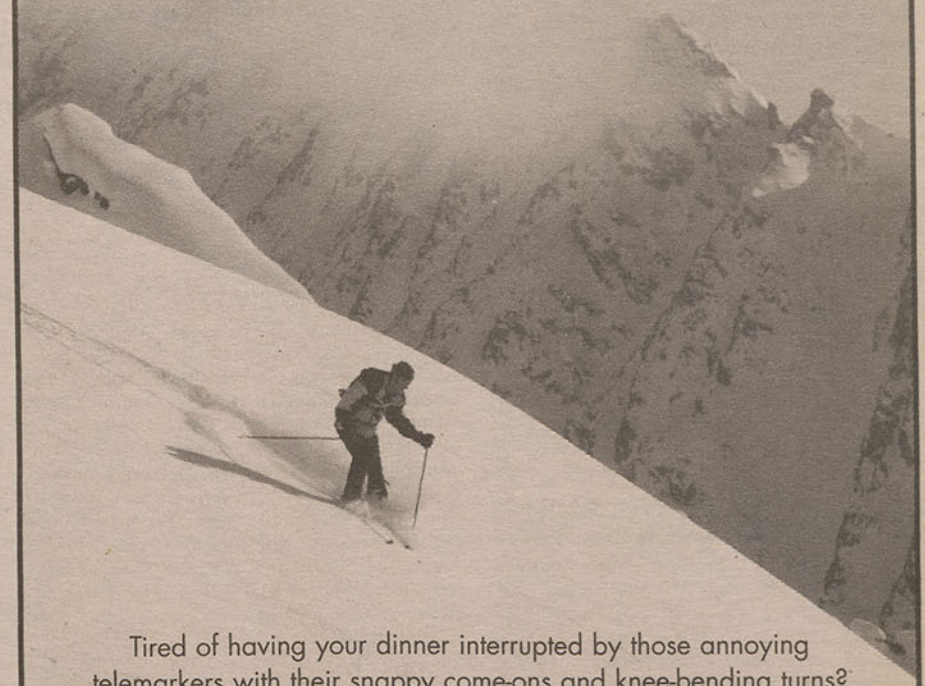

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MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

by John Hinchey

These bookings come from information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so to be certain who's playing, it's advisable to call ahead.

singer-songwriters

Annie Capps
Folk therapy

Singer-songwriter Annie Capps is heir to the long history of folk music as a medium for social commentary. At the same time, she is clearly a folksinger for the twenty-first century, using her art to explore the psychology of the individual, to engage in a little fret therapy. Most of Capps's songs are written in the first person, with introspective lyrics about trying to make sense of being a woman, a grown-up, a person with doubts and fears and desires. As you might expect, her strongest moments are when her inner revelations speak clearly to ours.

On the opening track of her latest CD, *Not So Sure,* Capps asks, "So are these eggshells I'm walking on, or is this air?" Another catchy lyric, from the song "Tracks," observes, "I've got a real bad habit of talking me down, and I've got way too much to say."

Capps writes dependable three-and-a-half-minute songs with comfortable phrasing, catchy choruses, and not too much excitement. She sings them in a lovely, uncomplicated voice, and has a cute way of scrunching up her nose when she performs that makes her easy to like. Her quiet musical style sets her apart from the Lilith Fair–type "grrrls,"

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

while her tough vulnerability is still in keeping with Chrissie Hynde's prettier pieces.

Musically, Annie Capps owes much to her husband and longtime collaborator, Rod Capps. Rod is a silent partner on stage, letting the guitar do all his communicating, but he always adds the right silky jazz lines, blues undertones, or southern rock feel to Annie's compositions and simpler rhythm-guitar chops. Every time the singing is replaced by one of his guitar solos, he makes the whole song feel more fluid, less mechanical.

Annie's live performances also benefit from the percussion and vocal work of Christine Schinker. Schinker's easy rhythm on hand drums fills in the empty spaces unobtrusively. But her most valuable contribution is her voice—she has a great ear for warm harmonies and blends her own bright and clear tone beautifully with Capps's.

For all her efforts to get you thinking, Capps also knows how to poke fun at her own genre—and at the sometimes painful life in a working band at local bars and parties. The wryly titled "Cerebral," though a bit of a novelty tune, may be the highlight of the CD: "Don't try appealing to my sensitive side / Don't try to raise up my unconsciousness . . . 'Cause I just came here to have a beer. . . . I just came here to have a drink / And I don't wanna have to think."

Annie Capps is at Crazy Wisdom on Saturday, August 30.

—Stephanie Kadel-Taras

The Ark
316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Cover, no dancing. All shows begin at 8 p.m. (Sun., 7:30 p.m.) unless otherwise noted. **Aug. 1: Michael Cooney.** Veteran folkie. See Events. **Aug. 4: Karan Casey.** Traditional Irish singer. See Events. **Aug. 5: Ray Benson.** Solo performance by this frontman of the western swing band Asleep at the Wheel. **Aug. 6: The Krueger Brothers.** Folk and bluegrass trio. See Events. **Aug. 7: Beausoleil.** Veteran Cajun band. See Events. **Aug. 8: Matt Watroba & Robert Jones.** Detroit folkie double bill. See Events. **Aug. 9: "Earth Tones '03."** With Native American singer-songwriter **Bill Miller. Aug. 10: Mitch Greenhill & Mayne Smith.** Folkie duo from San Francisco. **Aug. 11: The Smokin' Joe Kubek Band.** Texas blues band. See Events. **Aug. 12: Adrian Legg.** Celebrated fingerstyle guitarist. See Events. **Aug. 13: Otis Taylor.** Innovative blues singer-songwriter. See Events. **Aug. 14: Andrew Bird.** Adventurously eclectic violinist. See Events. **Aug. 15: Mustard's Retreat.** Veteran local folk duo. See Events. **Aug. 16: The Bluehouse.** All-female pop-folk trio from Australia. See Events. **Aug. 20: Dorsa.** Traditional Irish band. See Events. **Aug. 21: Friends of Dicken Woods Benefit.** With local luminaries **George Bedard, Khalid Hanifi, Matt Watroba, David Barrett,** and others. See Events. **Aug. 22: Stewart Francke.** Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter. See Events. **Aug. 23: Austin Lounge Lizards.** Hilarious acoustic quintet from Texas. See Events. **Aug. 24: Little Feat.** Legendary southern rock band. See Events. **Aug. 26: "Take a Chance Tuesdays."** With the Canadian singer-songwriter duo **Martha's Trouble** and Grand Rapids singer-songwriter **Ralston Bowles.** FREE. See Events.

Bird of Paradise
312 S. Main **662–8310**

Intimate jazz club owned by prominent jazz bassist Ron Brooks. Live music 7 nights a week, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (Fri.–Sun.) & 8 p.m.–midnight (Mon.–Thurs.). Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing only on Wed., Fri. happy hour, & occasional other nights. **Every Sun.: Jazz Jam Session.** All jazz musicians invited. Hosted by pianist Jon Nam. **Every Mon.: Mark Kieswetter.** This jazz pianist is accompanied by bassist Ron Brooks. **Every Tues. & Thurs.: Ron Brooks Trio.** One of the state's finest jazz bassists, club owner Brooks is joined by pianist Tad Weed and drummer Pete Siers. With occasional guest vocalists TBA. **Every Wed.: Jon Nam Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by pianist Nam, a U-M music student. **Aug. 1 & 2: Betty Joplin.** Jazz ensemble fronted by Joplin, a silky-voiced jazz singer from Lansing with a vocal style somewhere between Aretha Franklin and Natalie Cole and a repertoire that blends Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson. She is backed by the Ron Brooks Trio. **Aug. 8 & 9: Ryan DeHughes.** This award-winning young jazz vocalist from Owosso specializes in Frank Sinatra songs and arrangements. He is backed by the Jeff Kressler Trio. **Aug. 15 & 16: Eddie Hyde.** Jazz by this vocalist from Grand Rapids. He is backed by the Terry Lower Trio. **Aug. 22 & 23: Lori LeFevre.** Straight-ahead standards and ballads by this Toledo vocalist who is backed by a trio. **Aug. 29 & 30: Ron Brooks Trio.** See above.

The Blind Pig
208 S. First **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, occasional early shows, 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **Every Tues.: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Aug. 1: Nipple Dust.** Heavy alternative rock band from Ypsilanti. Opening acts are **Brad's Dead Fish,** a local hard-rock band, and the **Jason Blake Band,** a rock band from Hollywood. **Aug. 2: Scott Morgan's Powertrane.** Hard-edged blues and 60s-style Detroit rock 'n' roll by this quartet led by veteran singer-songwriter Morgan, a fixture on the local rock scene since his days with the legendary Rationals in the 60s. Morgan is also one of the best blues singers in town, with a sharp-edged, cannily rhythmic vocal attack that's both mean and soulful. Opening acts are the Chicago rock trio **The Cyril Lords,** the highly regarded new local garage rock band **The Avatars,** and the Detroit garage rock band **Bogue. Aug. 3: Blueprint.** Hip-hop MC from Columbus, who performs with DJ **Prism.** Opening acts are **One Man Army,** a local collective of hip-hop MCs, and **Illogic,** an underground hip-hop MC from New York City. **Aug. 6: Almost Famous.** Local alternative rock quartet. Opening acts are **Crankbox,** an Ypsilanti rock band, and **Kristy Hanson,** a folk-rock singer-songwriter and guitarist. **Aug. 7: The Hopescope.** Retro pop band from Ypsilanti. **Aug. 8: Da Rukus.** Ensemble of Detroit hip-hop MCs. Opening act is **Krown P Camp,** also an ensemble of Detroit hip-hop MCs. **Aug. 9: The Sights.** Detroit band that plays vintage Detroit rock 'n' roll, a la the Stooges and the MC5. Opening acts are **The Rants,** a classy local surf-punk trio led by singer-guitarist Randy Teachout, and the **O'Fays** (see Elbow Room). **Aug. 10: "Asians in Rock."** Asian American indie bands from around the country. See Events. **Aug. 13: Fountainhead.** Local metal band. Opening acts are **Spira,** a local alternative rock band, and **Fith,** a local postpunk hard-rock band. **Aug. 14: The L.O.D.** Detroit hip-hop ensemble. Opening acts are the 3 other hip-hop collectives, the **Abolitionists,** the **Level Jumpers,** and **L.Y.N.X. Aug. 15:** TBA. **Aug. 16: Flirt.** Detroit punk band. Opening acts are the Ypsilanti garage band **Cockblock,** the Milwaukee punk band **Wanda Chrome,** and **Blammo,** a veteran local sextet that plays a blend of wickedly humorous, socially observant originals and choice punk covers by the likes of Patti Smith, the Dead Kennedys, X, and the Ramones. **Aug. 20:** TBA. **Aug. 22: Clear.** Detroit psychedelic rock band. Opening acts are **Mad Mordigan,** an industrial rock band from Toledo, and **Velcro,** a Downriver rock 'n' roll band. **Aug. 23: Transmission.** Groove-oriented avant-garde free jazz by this Ann Arbor–bred ensemble that relocated to San Francisco a couple years ago. **Aug. 27:** TBA. **Aug. 28: "Subterraneous Presents."** MC battle (with a $300 cash prize) by acts that record for this local label. **Aug. 29:** TBA. **Aug. 30: Rootstand.** See Del Rio. Opening act is **One Route Sound,** a local DJ collective that plays reggae records.

Cafe Felix
204 S. Main **662–8650**

This downtown cafe features live music Fri., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Underground Jazz Quartet.** This local jazz quartet plays a mix of standards, blues, contemporary pieces, and originals, with an emphasis on Hammond B-3 styles of the likes of Jimmy Smith, Larry Young, and Jack McDuff. Members are guitarist Tom Sinas, organist Duncan McMillian, alto saxophonist Dean Moore, and drummer Jordan Young.

Cavern Club
210 S. First **332–9900**

This downtown club, in the Celebration Cellars banquet space in the basement under the Millennium Club, features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Millennium Club and Gotham City), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Aug. 1 & 2: Joce'lyn B & the Detroit Street Players.** Detroit blues band led by Joce'lyn B, a popular vocalist who's said to blend the voice of "Bessie Smith, the attitude of Mae West, and the mouth of Moms Mabley." **Aug. 8:** TBA. **Aug. 9: That 80s Band.** 80s dance music by this Detroit band formerly known as M-80. **Aug. 15: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Aug. 16: Bobby Murray Band.** Danceable R&B originals by this Detroit band led by guitarist Murray, a longtime member of Etta James's band. **Aug. 22: Thornetta Davis.** Soulful, rocking Detroit-style R&B by a band led by Davis, a powerful, Etta James–style vocalist. **Aug. 23: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Aug. 29: Immunity.** Local dancehall reggae band. **Aug. 30: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Wayne.

Club Above
215 N. Main **663–7758**

This renovated dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg Restaurant features a variety of live and recorded music Thurs.–Sun., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Also, comedy on Tues. (see Events), and karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted unless otherwise noted. **Every Thurs.:** Live music TBA. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Miguel plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **Every Sun: Mexican Night.** With live bands and/or DJs TBA. **Aug. 2: Laith Al-Saadi.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Aug. 9: Johnny No-Stars.** Local psychedelic rock band. **Aug. 16: "Russian Techno Party."** DJs play Russian and other European techno dance music. **Aug. 23: Athletic Mic League.** Local hip-hop ensemble. **Aug. 30: "Russian Techno Party."** See above.

Club Bedrocks
2900 Jackson Rd. **665–4444**

Lounge in the Best Western Suites. DJs on Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: "Mix & Mingle."** DJs spin old school, R&B, reggae, techno, and hip-hop dance records. **Every Sat.: Latino Night.** DJs play Latin dance music.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (6:30–10 p.m.) and Tues. & Thurs. and occasional other nights (9 p.m.–2 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.: Trafford.** This local trio performs covers of all sorts of music, from traditional Irish to classic rock and pop. **Aug. 7: Bill Long.** Irish rock and American pop by this local singer-guitarist. **Aug. 14: Gareth Woods.** Irish music and American pop by this singer-guitarist. **Aug. 21: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Aug. 28: Kelly's Heroes.** Upbeat contemporary Irish music.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 1: Pernell Disney.** Washington, D.C., singer-songwriter who calls his blend of acoustic rock and looped samples "dream pop." **Aug. 2: Sari Brown.** See Espresso Royale. **Aug. 8: Glenn Poorman.** Acclaimed Chapman stick player from Detroit. **Aug. 9: Patricia Pettinga.** Folk and blues singer from Kalamazoo whose singing is known for its melodic sweetness and jazzy vocal acrobatics. **Aug. 15: Luke Winslow-King.** New Orleans–bred singer-songwriter and guitarist who currently lives in Cadillac. "This guy has got as much mojo as Jimi Hendrix, and he is crazy good fun in every way," says local singer-songwriter Sari Brown. **Aug. 16: Dan Kahn.** A singer-songwriter whose music shows heavy southern influences, Kahn accompanies himself on piano, guitar, and ukulele. **Aug. 22: Greg Klyma.** Lyrical roots-music originals by this singer-songwriter from Buffalo, New York. **Aug. 23: Jaia Suri.** Folk-style singer-songwriter and guitarist from northern California whose songs about ordinary life and contemporary culture are known for their plainspoken grace. "As strange and dark and slippery as a Baudelaire poem or a Flannery O'Connor novel, Jaia Suri's somnolent, haunted songs are the music one hears in one's dreams. [Her] metaphors are purely everyday, but sung in the most ethereal tones," says *Performing*

Songwriter. **Aug. 29: Brandon Wiard and Tamara Bedricky.** Double bill. Wiard is a highly regarded local folk-flavored country-pop singer-songwriter who sings songs from his forthcoming CD, *Painting a Burning Building*. Bedricky is a talented pop singer-songwriter from Rochester, Michigan. **Aug. 30: Annie Capps.** *See review, p. 67.* Local singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes jazz-tinged folk-rock songs. Her latest CD is *Not So Sure*.

Del Rio

122 W. Washington 761–2530

No cover, no dancing. Live music Sun., 5:30–9 p.m., and Tues., 6–8 p.m., and reggae bands or DJs on Mon., 6–8 p.m. **Aug. 3: Vincent York & Friends.** Jazz ensemble led by alto saxophonist York. **Aug. 4: Zack Zavisa.** Reggae DJ. **Aug. 5: Laura Davidson.** Local jazz-inflected folk-rock singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist known for her luscious melodies and trenchant lyrics. Her recent songs have a strong bossa nova flavor. **Aug. 10: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** See Goodnite Gracie. **Aug. 11: Rootstand.** Local band whose music blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. **Aug. 12: Roger Possley.** Traditional English, Scottish, and Welsh folk songs, along with Great Lakes sailing songs, by this folksinger who plays guitar, mandolin, and cittern. **Aug. 17: Vincent York & Friends.** See above. **Aug. 18: Don Pablo.** Reggae DJ. **Aug. 19: Mike Boyd.** Original folk-style songs in the manner of Guthrie and Dylan by this local singer-songwriter. **Aug. 24: Paul Keller & Friends.** Straight-ahead jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller. **Aug. 25: Billy the Kid.** Reggae DJ. **Aug. 26: Dev Singh.** Blues, ballads, and soulful folk-styled originals by this local singer-songwriter who accompanies himself on guitar, Autoharp, mouthbow, dulcimer, and piano. **Aug. 31: Steve Wood Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by Detroit tenor saxophonist Wood.

The Earle

121 W. Washington 994–0211

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.–Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillian.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, bassist Robert Warren, and a drummer TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483–6374

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon., Thurs., and occasional other weeknights, 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.** (except Aug. 25)**: "Stephanie Says."** DJ **Miss Pia** plays a wide range of vintage dance music, from British Invasion and Motown to disco and 80s pop. **Every Wed.** (except Aug. 6)**: DJ Chuck.** DJ who plays everything from garage and glam to punk and contemporary rock. **Aug. 1: Rune.** Metal band. Opening acts are the pop-metal band **The Phage,** the Detroit nerd-rock band **Bob Clark & the Late Fees,** and the Ypsilanti speed-metal band **Youthcorpse. Aug. 2: Long Black Sedan.** Detroit retro rock band. Opening acts are **The Kingsnakes,** a Downriver band that plays straight-ahead, full-throttle 70s-style rock 'n' roll, and the Detroit retro rock band **Dixie Hustler** and the Chicago retro punk band **The Deadhounds. Aug. 3: Valiant Thor.** Abrasive postpunk rock 'n' roll a la Nation of Ulysses. **Aug. 5: The Don't Stop.** Rock band from Brooklyn, New York. Opening acts are the Iowa power pop trio **Echo 3,** the Detroit alternative rock band **Hot Paws,** the Tucson, Arizona, punk band **Chango Malo,** and the **Dumb and Ugly Club,** the folk-style postpunk acoustic duo of U-M students Gina Penseiro and Michael Beauchamp. **Aug. 6: Cash O'Riley and the Downright Daddies.** Jackson rockabilly band. Opening act is the **Marauders,** a Pittsburgh rockabilly band. **Aug. 7: Vortis.** Chicago punk band. Opening acts are **Brooklawn,** a Downriver rock band, and **Rodeo Midgets,** a Grand Rapids rock band. **Aug. 8: The O'Fays.** New York City–based honky-tonk band. Opening acts are the **Gigantics,** a honky-tonk band from Chelsea, and the **Ingham County Regulars,** a Lansing roots honky-tonk band. **Aug. 9: Thee Singles.** Detroit band that plays 60s-style Britpop. Opening acts are the all-female Detroit power pop band **The Nice Device,** the rock 'n' roll band **O'er the Ramparts,** and the Pittsburgh rock band **Chalk Outline Party. Aug. 14: Willhite.** Local rock 'n' roll band. Opening acts are the Kansas City indie rock band **Thousandaire,** the industrial punk trio **Eve Neurotica,** and **Archer 44,** an emo band. **Aug. 15: Fightin' Hellfish.** Lansing rock 'n' roll band featuring members of 8-Ball Grifter. Opening acts are **Legbone,** an old-school skate-punk band from Columbus, and **Sex Twister,** a joke rock band from Columbus. **Aug. 16: Gag Order.** Pop-rock band. Opening acts are the local alternative rock band **Median,** the New York City female-fronted power pop band **Annie Quick,** and the pop-rock band **Seismic 3. Aug. 17: Fred Thomas.** Moody indie pop by a band led by this versatile local singer-songwriter. Opening acts are the Grand Rapids rock trio **Halos for Martyrs,** the New Jersey acoustic emo band **Full Surrender,** the indie band **Amazing Plaid,** the Replacements-style rock 'n' roll band **The Highsocks,** and the emo-pop band **Parker Lewis. Aug. 21: Powerstrippers.** Local hard-rock band. Opening acts are the local female-fronted rock band **De Novo,** the highly regarded Brooklyn, New York, indie pop-rock quartet **Bishop Allen,** and the Redford rock band **SBU. Aug. 22: Lisboa.** Indie-rock band from Livonia that includes members of Small Craft Sighting. Opening acts are the Detroit pop bands **Thunderbirds Are Now** and **Poor Me. Aug. 23: Busy Signal.** Pop-rock band. Opening acts are the alternative rock bands **Garden of Souls,** the Detroit hard-rock band **Nova,** the Ohio stoner rock band **Diesel Burners,** and the New Jersey rock band **The Ace Holes. Aug. 25: The Lovemakers.** Oakland, California, trio whose lusty electro-pop dance music has been described as "like a pink Ferrari driving through a mountain of coke." Opening act is **The Erotics,** a postpunk glam-metal band from Albany, New York. **Aug. 26: Model Citizen.** Lo-fi indie rock band from Birmingham, Alabama. Opening act is **PB Army,** a goof-rock band from Toledo. **Aug. 28: The Bandits.** Local college rock band. Opening acts are **Stand Up Johns,** an Ypsilanti rock 'n' roll band, and other bands TBA. **Aug. 29:** Headliner TBA. Opening act is **Lovekill,** an alternative rock band from Cleveland. **Aug. 30: Blamethrower.** Rock 'n' roll band from Ferndale. Opening acts are **Cocktail Shake,** a retro rock band, and **The Questions,** an Irish-flavored rock band formerly known as Solla Saloon.

Espresso Royale Caffe

214 S. Main 668–1838

The downtown location of this popular coffeehouse features live music on Sat., 9–11 p.m. **Every Fri.: Open Mike.** All poets and musicians invited. 8–9:30 p.m. **Aug. 2: Love Lies Dreaming.** Acoustic folk-rock with fetching melodies and vocal harmonies by this local quartet fronted by the husband-and-wife singer-songwriter duo of rhythm guitarist Andrew McFinton and cellist Jennifer McFinton. **Aug. 9: The Great Lakes Ramblers.** Familiar and obscure swing and country gems, along with some jazz standards, by the local trio of fiddler Paul Winder, singer-pianist Debbie Jackson, and singer-guitarist Myron Grant, who also plays harmonica and bones. **Aug. 16: Kyle Norris.** Local roots-country singer-songwriter who writes richly imagined, emotionally-potent songs that reflect influences as diverse as Ani DiFranco and Dolly Parton. **Aug. 22: Khalid Hanifi.** Classy, bewitching rock 'n' roll originals by this veteran local singer-songwriter whose music blends the Beatles' musical inventiveness with the verbal wit and vocal craftiness of an Elvis Costello. His current band includes his longtime bassist Onie Werth, veteran local guitar genius George Bedard, and a drummer TBA. **Aug. 23: Blue Tango.** Local folk- and blues-inflected rock 'n' roll quintet led by vocalist Surry Scheerer and guitarist Jack Scheerer. **Aug. 30: Sari Brown.** Folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility by this talented young local singer-songwriter.

The Firefly Club

207 S. Ashley 665–9090

Jazz and blues club. Live jazz Mon. & Thurs., 8–11 p.m.; Wed., 8 p.m.–midnight; and Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed.: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. **Every Thurs.: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by free Latin dance lessons. **Aug. 1: Rumba Club.** Acclaimed 8-piece Latin jazz band from Baltimore. **Aug. 2: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned*. With guitarist Jef Williams, blues harpist and keyboardist Phil Ryski, saxophonist Willie Rankin, bassist Wendy Hayes, and drummer Tom Twiss. **Aug. 3: Into the Freylakh.** Energetic local avant-klezmer sextet. 9 p.m.–midnight. **Aug. 5: Full.** Popular local avant-pop sextet, fronted by the gorgeous vocals of Kate Lamb, that mixes elements of rock, electronica, jazz, and classical music. **Aug. 8: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs. **Aug. 9:** TBA. **Aug. 15: Ursula Walker.** This veteran Detroit jazz singer is backed by a trio led by her husband, pianist **Buddy Budson. Aug. 16: Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets.** Texas blues band. See Events. **Aug. 22: Paul VornHagen Quartet.** Upbeat Latin jazz and swing-bop by this ensemble led by local saxophonist and flutist VornHagen. With bassist Kurt Krahnke, drummer Pete Siers, and pianist Tad Weed. **Aug. 23: The Blue Rays.** Local blues band led by guitarist Dave Kaftan and featuring vocalist Angel Tristin. **Aug. 29 & 30: Karrin Allyson.** Acclaimed jazz vocalist from Kansas City. See Events. 9 & 11 p.m. (Aug. 29) and 8 & 10 p.m. (Aug. 30).

George Bedard and the Kingpins joins Khalid Hanifi, Matt Watroba, David Barrett, and other stellar local performers at the Aug. 21 Friends of Dicken Woods benefit concert at the Ark.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron 623–2070

Martini and cigar bar connected to D'Amato's restaurant. Live jazz Wed.–Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. **Every Tues.: "Deep-Chilled House & Techno."** With DJ R. Elliot. **Every Wed.: Dave Luther and Justin Avery.** Local jazz-rock duo of saxophonist Luther and singer-pianist Avery. **Every Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Aug. 1: Dave Luther Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by saxophonist Luther. **Aug. 2: Paul VornHagen Quartet.** See Firefly. **Aug. 8: Tropidelic.** Detroit Latin jazz ensemble. **Aug. 9: Odessa Harris.** This Detroit vocalist, who sings bluesy jazz in the style of Dinah Washington, is backed by a jazz trio. **Aug. 15: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Reichbart. **Aug. 16: Dave Luther Quartet.** See above. **Aug. 22: Jake Reichbart Quartet.** See above. **Aug. 23: Tropidelic.** See above. **Aug. 29: The Witch Doctors.** See Tap Room. **Aug. 30: Odessa Harris.** See above.

Gotham City

210 S. First 913–8890

This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Millennium Club, features DJs on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern and Millennium clubs), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Every Fri. & Sat.: House Night.** With DJ J Smooth.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636

Newly remodeled lounge at Weber's Inn. Solo piano (6–9 p.m.) by **Adam Riccinto** (Tues.–Fri.) and **Tom Knapp** (Sat. & Sun.). Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Swank Life."** DJ Gary McLellan spins vintage big-band records. Period attire encouraged. 7 p.m.–midnight. **Aug. 1 & 2: No Romance.** Hard-rocking college pop cover band from East Lansing featuring former members of Soulstice. **Aug. 6–9: Soulstice.** College rock cover band from East Lansing. **Aug. 12–16: Destiny.** Latin pop dance band. **Aug. 19–23: Rave.** Pop dance band. **Aug. 26–28: Terry Cooper.** Toledo dance-pop trio. **Aug. 29 & 30: Impact-7.** 7-piece Detroit dance band.

Millennium Club

210 S. First 913–8890

This downtown dance club, located above the Cavern Club and adjacent to the Gotham City club, features DJs Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to Cavern Club and Gotham City), dancing. Age 21 (men) and 19 (women) & older admitted. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Techno Nite.** With DJ Mad Maxx.

Mitch's Place
1301 South University **665–2650**

This bar and grill features live music Tues. & frequent other nights, 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover, some dancing. **Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague.** Veteran local roots-rock singer-guitarist. Remainder of Aug. schedule TBA.

The Necto
510 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular local dance club features local and national DJs 5 nights a week, 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (after 10 p.m.), dancing. **Every Tues.: "Industry."** With DJ Timmy D. **Every Wed.: "Resident."** Various local DJs compete for a Thursday night opening act slot. **Every Thurs.: "Lust."** House and techno with national and international guest DJs. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** With DJs Timmy D and Blur. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** Popular Detroit DJ Dan Diamond, recently returned from a 2-year stint in Las Vegas, plays a mix of house, hip-hop, and trance dance music.

Old Town
122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Aug. 3: Tim Fagan.** Solo performance by this Crowbar Hotel singer-songwriter and guitarist. **Aug. 6: Jason Ringenberg.** Solo performance by the founder of the pioneering cow-punk band Jason & the Scorchers. **Aug. 10: Caroline Aiken.** Veteran folk- and blues-based singer-songwriter from Atlanta with a soaring, gutsy vocal style that's been compared to Bonnie Raitt's. **Aug. 17: Laura Davidson.** See Del Rio. **Aug. 24: John Latini.** Acoustic rock-based originals by the lead singer of Crowbar Hotel. **Aug. 31:** No music.

Oz's Music Environment
1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most nights of the week, 8–10 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: "Acoustic Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. The August 13 open stage is for songwriters. 7:30–9:30 p.m. **Aug. 1: Songcatchers.** Vocal and instrumental improvisations by this local ensemble. **Aug. 11: "Community Drum Circle."** Hosted by John Churchville. **Aug. 23: Jen Cass.** Sprightly, often sharply humorous pop-folk parables by this former U-M law student who's been called "a Mary Chapin Carpenter with a Dar Williams chaser." 7–9 p.m.

Rick's American Cafe
611 Church **996–2747**

This campus-area club features DJs Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon. & Thurs.: "Jammin' DJs."** DJs TBA play dance music. **Every Wed.: "High Energy Dance Party."** With DJ John King. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Supermack.** Techno music with DJs from Supermack Productions.

Rubber Soul Records
115 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483–8834

Record shop–coffeehouse recently relocated from Depot Town. Live music, usually 1 or 2 nights a week and usually running 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 8: Whit Hill & Bill Edwards.** Multitalented local performance artist (aka Whitley Setrakian), who writes richly imaginative country-folk originals that are often spiked with her offbeat sense of humor, is joined by guitarist Edwards. **Aug. 9: Dabenport and The Great Iron Highway.** Double bill. Dabenport is a local band that plays lo-fi country-tinged pop. The Great Iron Highway is a local folk-oriented alt-country band. **Aug. 15: The Submarines.** Loud, hyper-energetic young Ypsilanti retropunk band. **Aug. 22: Chris Richards.** Veteran Detroit power-pop singer-songwriter. **Aug. 23: "Greasefest."** This festival of Mississippi roadhouse-style gutbucket blues is headlined by **Orangatangin',** a Detroit-area duo whose instrumentation includes 21 harps, percussion, and a home-made electric didgeridoo. Also, **Jawbone,** a one-man blues guitarist and harpist from Royal Oak who brings his own bucket to sit on, and others TBA. **Aug. 28: Bill Parker & His Motherscratchers.** Detroit-area country-punk glam quartet. "We're more rock than a television flyin' out a hotel window and we're more country than the guy who picks it up and takes it home," says the band's frontman Arlo Pickens. Opening act is **The Widowmakers,** an Ypsilanti honky-tonk and roots-rock band that recently released a CD, *Poke It with a Stick*. **Aug. 30: Grandpa's 38.** Tom Page and Pat McElmurray are an acoustic country-folk singer-songwriter duo from Wichita who have released 2 CDs, including the recent *Growing Up in Kansas*.

Scorekeepers Sports Bar & Grill
310 Maynard **995–0100**

DJs on Tues. & Thurs., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older admitted. **Every Tues.: Dance Music.** With DJs TBA. **Every Wed.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by the **Master Tones,** a local blues band. All blues musicians and vocalists invited. **Every Thurs.–Sat.: Dance Music.** With DJs TBA.

Studio 4
313 S. Fourth Ave. **302–3687**

This dinner club features DJs Wed.–Sun., 9 p.m.–2 a.m., playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover (women admitted free on Fri. before 11 p.m.), dancing. Age 21 & older admitted. **Every Wed.–Sun.:** DJs play dance music TBA.

TC's Speakeasy
207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483–4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features karaoke on Tues., DJs on Wed., open mike on Thurs., and DJs or dance bands on Fri. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). Solo piano by **Art Stephan** on Fri., 6–9 p.m. Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** Hosted by Rootstand frontman Brant. All musicians invited. **Aug. 1: Jive Turkeys.** Funky dance band from New Orleans. **Aug. 2: DJ Major.** Top 40, club, and house dance music. **Aug. 3: Rootstand.** See Del Rio. **Aug. 9: Silent Hero.** Local college rock band. **Aug. 16: Deep Space Six.** Local Grateful Dead cover band. **Aug. 17: Tattoo Dragon.** Local pop-rock band. **Aug. 22: Original Brothers & Sisters of Love.** Local folk-rock sextet whose music is an eclectic mix of Appalachian music, prog-rock, and sea shanties. Led by singer-songwriter-guitarists Tim and Jamie Monger, who also play accordion and mandolin, respectively. **Aug. 23: Selector Joshua.** This One Route Sound DJ plays reggae records. **Aug. 29: Metaphysical Jones.** Jam band from Lansing. **Aug. 30: Makkafroi.** Pop-rock band from Ypsilanti.

Tap Room
201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482–5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music 5 nights a week, usually 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., with karaoke on Sun., 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Kris Kashew's Musical Rollercoaster.** DJ plays dance records. **Every Mon.: Open Mike Unplugged.** Hosted by **Chris Buhalis,** a local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist. All acoustic performers invited. 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. **Every Tues.: Blues Jam.** Hosted by the **Danny Pratt Band,** a local blues band led by singer-guitarist Pratt. All bands and musicians invited. **Every Wed.: Tim Fagan.** This local singer-guitarist promises to deliver "bombastic takes on familiar hits." **Every Thurs.: Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All acoustic and electric musicians invited. **Aug. 2: Nobody's Business.** High-energy rockabilly by this Detroit-area band. **Aug. 8 & 9: The Witch Doctors.** This local blues and R&B band led by singer-guitarist Thayrone, best known as the host of the nationally syndicated *Bone Conduction Music Show*, plays what Thayrone calls "way-strong mojo, ritualistic barroom blues healing." **Aug. 15: Blue Cat.** Detroit-area blues quartet. **Aug. 16: The Kenny Parker Blues Band.** Upbeat blues and rockabilly originals by this band led by Parker, a singer-songwriter and guitarist from Toledo. **Aug. 22: The Terraplanes.** See Firefly. **Aug. 23: Glen Eddy Band.** Chicago-style blues band from Detroit led by singer-guitarist Eddy. **Aug. 29 & 30:** TBA.

Touchdown Cafe
1220 South University **665–7777**

This campus-area cafe features music Wed.–Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Aug. schedule TBA.

Zydeco
314 S. Main **995–3600**

Live music Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 1 & 2: Bob Schultz.** Soulful vocals by this pianist who also plays sax. **Aug. 8 & 9:** TBA. **Aug. 15, 16, & 22: Bob Schultz.** See above. **Aug. 23:** TBA. **Aug. 29: Bob Schultz.** See above. **Aug. 30:** TBA. ■

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women seeking men

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 11.

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Adventurous **SWPF,** young 55, 5', 105 lbs., ISO educated, clean-cut, WPM, 5'9"+, NS/ND, involved in law enforcement, fire science, or medicine, who enjoys flying planes, traveling, horses, and dogs. ☎5116✍

Single black female looking for a single, nice-looking white male, 5'9" and up. Must be stable, no kids, and be a fun person who likes to travel, etc. ☎5181✍

Curious about the curve in the trail, meander of the river, the shapes of clouds? Do colors, textures, scents, tastes, and sounds call (loudly . . . and in whispers)? Enjoy places and cultures (familiar . . . and new)? Need laughter even more than a cup of coffee? ☎5166✍

Attractive, well-educated, honest, caring, with good sense of humor. Russian lady, 57, 5'2", 135 lbs. is hoping to meet her soulmate to share life with. ☎5141✍

Earthy, attractive, **SWPF,** 46, active, full-figured ISO S/DWM, 36–66, to cocreate spontaneity, sensuality, soulfulness, simplicity, and more. No TV a plus! ☎5153✍

Attractive, fit, loving, intelligent, **DWPF,** 41, educated, upbeat, single mom ISO warm, intelligent, educated, family-oriented, fit, NS, PM, single dad or child lover for close friendship and possible LTR. Perhaps a blended family? I love nature, animals, romance, and time without kids, too! ☎4805✍

Warm **WF,** 5'10", educated, positive, sense of humor, NS. Likes good conversation, trivia, flowers, movies, outdoors, and dogs. Seeks LTR with similar WM, 45–58. ☎5149✍

Scholarly but gregarious **SF** enjoys levity, outings, running, good coffee, music, and people who march to their own drum in traditional careers. ☎5184✍

Fun-loving, young-at-heart, easygoing, attractive, fit, **DWF,** 56, ISO emotionally stable, unconventional, warm, humorous, open-minded, playful, compassionate man for sharing music, theater, movies, nature walks, travel, general joy, and whatever spring spontaneity brings. ☎5186✍

Blonde Christian beauty with loving spirit, H/WP, ISO gentle, WPM, 50–60, with warm heart, integrity. ☎5062✍

men seeking women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

SBM, 38, looking for F, 20–42. Employed, loves kids, and looking for a relationship. ☎5169✍

Hi, my name is Mike and I'm looking for a date only. I'm 39, never married, no children. I enjoy traveling, camping, working out, movies, dining out, bowling, walks, getaways, hot tubs, etc. I want to have a family and kids. I'm honest, caring, and a very good listener. I'm a materials handler at a book company, I've been there for 16 years, and I live in the Saline area. I love romance, hot tubs, and massage. Looking for possible LTR in the future. I'm going on vacation Aug. 4–9; maybe we can spend that time together up north. Letters only, please. 5173✍

DWPM, NS, responsible, likes golf, books, music, walks, lake weekends, fitness. Cooks, does laundry, does the lawn and fixes stuff, not much for TV. ISO active 50–60-year-old who wants a friend as much as I do. Possible LTR. ☎5171✍

History and the arts, especially film, are just some of the many passions of this tennis-playing, 5'10½", **SWPM,** 47. Izzie, please leave your number! ☎5167✍

Passion: use it or lose it! 56-year-old, well-educated Jewish-flavored guy who's a little wacky and relishes smiles, kissing slowly, and a great passion for frolic. ☎5160✍

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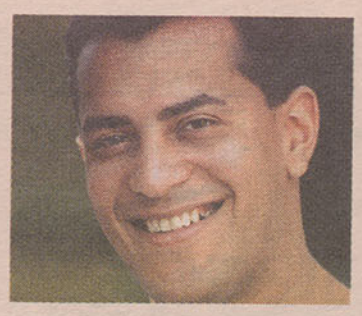
personals



You've got nothing to lose. **SWPM,** 42, trim. Let's just laugh it up, go out to eat, talk about anything, and see what happens. ☎5164✍

Recently retired **DWM,** 58, 5'10½", 185 lbs., brown/brown. Enjoys walks, golf, bikes, movies, bridge, Scrabble, and good conversation. ISO sweet, kind, affectionate lady, 40–63, for friendship and a possible LTR. ☎4951✍

SWM, fit, slim, intelligent, educated, honest, accommodating. Interests: books, movies, music, travel. ISO similar SWF, intelligent, compatible, attractive, 40s–50s. ☎2918✍

DWM, 50, 5'9", 150 lbs., no children. PhD scientist/farmer in conservation/ecology. ISO woman scientist for rural life, international travel, romance. ☎4486✍

SWPM, young 54, amateur violinist/chamber music addict, vegetarian, Buddhist, enjoys cycling, concerts, movies, Scrabble. ISO woman with similar interests. ☎5025✍

DWM, 55, retired, seeks NS active lady, friends first, who likes chocolate, contra dancing, travel, nature, humor, and conversation for LTR. ☎4943✍

SWPM, 45, 5'8", fit, no dependents, flexible, persevering, communicative, humorous, introspective, and more. Seeking fit, emotionally available, SWPF, 28-45. ☎5150✍

We've been around long enough to realize we have to make do with what God gave us. Brilliant minds, stunning looks, adorable personalities. Childless **SWPM,** young 50, seeks joy, happiness, fun, affection with a childless, slender, outdoorsy, SWPF, 35–52, for a quality relationship. ☎5183✍

Educated, fit, **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO classy, attractive woman, 39–46. ☎3031✍

SWPM, 36, faithful, moral with a strong set of values. Looking for someone who's fun, honest, and enjoys life. I love to cook (I'm good too!) and don't mind doing the grocery shopping. ☎5185✍

women seeking women

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

men seeking men

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

friendships

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone. $1.95/min.

Alternate **F,** 40ish, seeks new friends, any age/gender, for mutual support in fun and other spiritual matters: raising consciousness, abundance mindedness, manifestation practice, alternative health, nature preservation, healing Mother Earth, positive thinking, etc. ☎5182✍

general personals

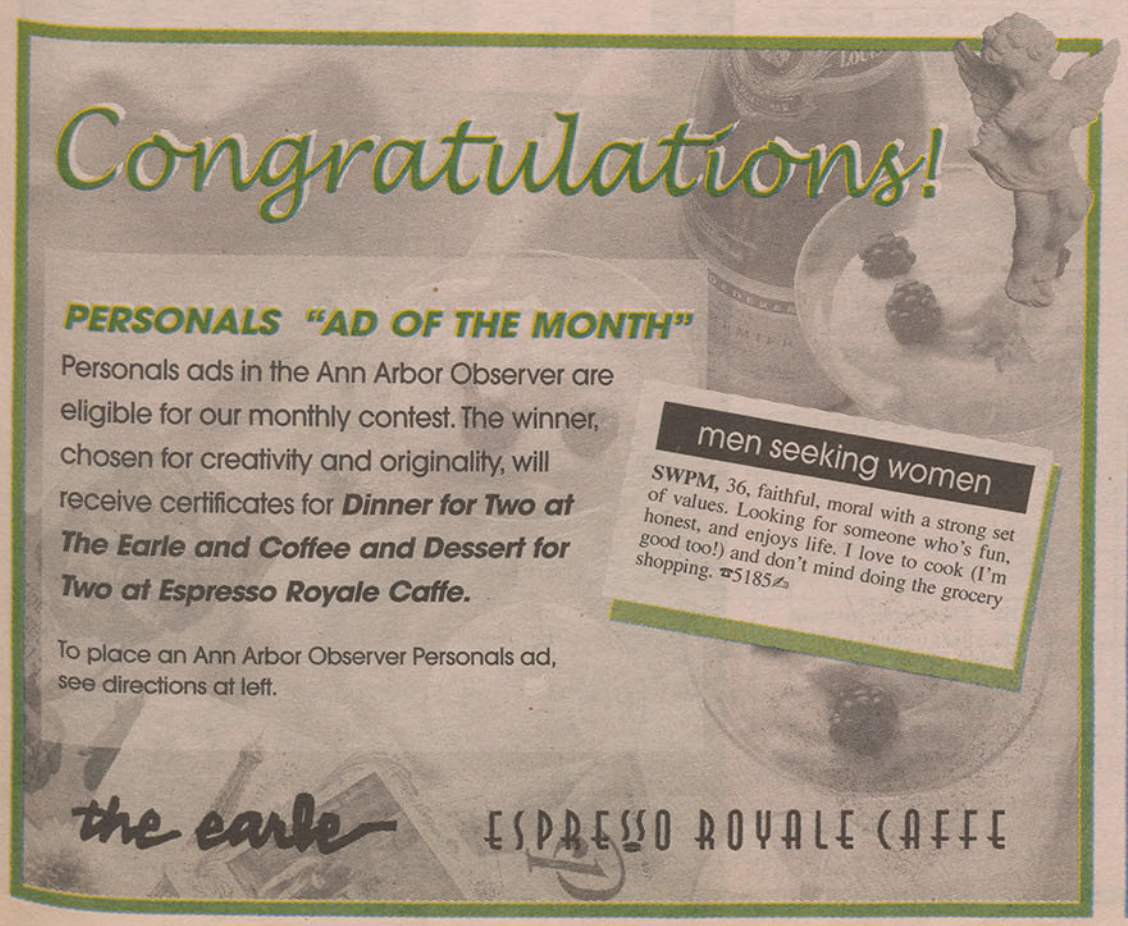
FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake display ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate from one of our advertisers. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, August 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: Fake Ad, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; e-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

21–39 year olds looking to meet new people in the Ann Arbor area? The Ann Arbor Jaycees are for you. We offer something for everyone, the chance to meet new people, have fun while helping the community, improve leadership skills along the way, and much more. Come check us out at our membership meetings the first Thursday of each month or go to www.a2jaycees.org for our calendar of events with dates and locations, or call 913–9629.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
Check out our Spring and Summer Activities . . . The AASC offers year-round social and sports activities for singles and couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 600 members! Upcoming events include: **8/10 & 24 Sun. Golf Outings; 8/4, 11, 18, & 25 Mon. Night Volleyball at Burns Park; 8/5–6, 12–13, 19–20, & 26–27 Rollerblading at Hudson Mills Metropark; 8/10 Corn Roast Volunteer Party; 8/17 Annual Corn Roast and Membership Drive; and 8/30 German Park.** For more info on events, including sign-up procedures, consult the Club Hotline, (734) 761–3419 or www.a2skiclub.org.

It's Easy to Respond to a Personals Ad!
To Respond by Phone, Call 1·900·226·8978
Follow the simple directions and you will be able to hear more about the people whose ads interest you, or you can browse ads by category. With one call, you can leave as many messages as you like. You may call anytime, 24 hours a day. Voice greetings are valid only for the month they appear in print.
You must be 18 or older.
Touch-Tone phones only. $1.95 a minute.
Or to Respond by Phone Using a Credit Card, Call 1·888·718·4827

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail
Responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes. Mail all responses (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to:
Ann Arbor Observer · 201 Catherine · Ann Arbor, MI 48104


Congratulations!
PERSONALS "AD OF THE MONTH"
Personals ads in the Ann Arbor Observer are eligible for our monthly contest. The winner, chosen for creativity and originality, will receive certificates for Dinner for Two at The Earle and Coffee and Dessert for Two at Espresso Royale Caffe.
To place an Ann Arbor Observer Personals ad, see directions at left.
men seeking women
SWPM, 36, faithful, moral with a strong set of values. Looking for someone who's fun, honest, and enjoys life. I love to cook (I'm good too!) and don't mind doing the grocery shopping. ☎5185✍
the earle
ESPRESSO ROYALE CAFFE

Love is in the air!
Every Friday at 8:35 a.m. on Kool 107 FM, listen for the Personals Ads of the Week from Kool 107's Lucy Ann Lance and the Ann Arbor Observer's Melanie Ballance.
brought to you by:
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classifieds

employment

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SIDING INSTALLERS
Become certified in James Hardie cement siding. Looking for experienced installers to work 5–6 days/wk. Must have 2 yrs.' exp., reliable transportation, own hand tools, and be self-motivated with a good work ethic. Pay based on experience. Also looking for someone with brake knowledge. Please call (734) 434–3400.

LIVE MUSIC
For all occasions. **Espresso** plays great music for dancing and listening. Jazz, Motown, Classic Rock, and more. Call David for tape and song list, 439–2151.

Live harp music for any occasion. Harp doctorate, U-M. Flute/oboe and harp also available. Laurel, 663–9292/663–0087.

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The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 11.

VOICE • PIANO
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Gini Robison, (734) 487–2691.

entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 11.

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High class, low-key, the right music at the right time. Experienced, all digital. This is the DJ your friends wish they'd had!
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Professional woodwind quintet for weddings, receptions, parties, etc. Classical to popular music. (734) 994–5457.

★★ PUPPET SHOWS ★★
Exciting shows for children's parties, schools, and organizations. Call Myra's Amazing Puppets. (734) 665–6643.

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Nurturing, educating, and empowering healthy families. Birth & Postpartum Doula Trainings & DONA Certification. 663–1523, www.Center4CBY.com

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD for referrals to qualified, professional piano teachers.
All levels and ages, 665–5346.

★★ BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE ★★
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Voice Lessons for nonsingers and singers. All ages, all music types, personal expression focus. Very experienced teacher, certified music therapist, award-winning vocalist. Kathleen Moore, (734) 668–8146.

★ MOSAIC CLASSES ★ sign up at Mosaic Sphere Studio. Call Yulia Hanansen, (734) 769–8478. E-mail: info@mosaicsphere.com, mosaicsphere.com.

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995–2972

www.YogaAndMeditation.com
Group, private, and corporate classes & workshops for all ages. (734) 665–7801.

for sale

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 91? If you can, you could win a copy of the latest edition of *Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor, Michigan*. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, August 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; e-mail: penny@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number).

ART FAIR BOOTH—adjusts to 8' x 10' or 10' x 10'. Complete with zippered canopy and sides, inside panels with covers, storage/display cabinets, revolving kiosk, table frames, and original papers with instructions. $1,500 or best offer. (734) 996–9521.

services

The Classifieds deadline for the September issue is August 11.

Professional Narrator—records your voice mail. $50/mailbox. (248) 414–9361.

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Personal readings, parties, events, by appt.
Call **Nanci Rose Gerler, Crystal Clear Expressions** (734) 996–8799.

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Roofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc.
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$30/hr. Ann Arbor. Institute of Massage Therapy Student Clinic, 677–4430. Call today for your appointment!

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Meetings every day. Call (734) 480–4556.

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Soothe those achy, knotted muscles, restore balance, and feel great! Holistic bodywork using Swedish, deep tissue, and energy modalities. Providing healthful massage since 1992. Katie King, (734) 994–8444.

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SOCIAL ANXIETY?
Gain confidence, learn NEW skills.
FREE consultation.
Ashley Street Counseling Center.
996–9909.

Therapeutic Massage by Rose. Affordable holistic bodywork with Swedish, deep tissue, and energy modalities. Tailored to your needs. 998–0340. 10% off with this ad.

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Meetings every day. Call (734) 480–4556.

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Life Balance Consultations
At your home or office.
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home

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Pet Care When You Can't Be There
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Excellent cleaning—Makes coming home a joy! (734) 998–0340.

Experienced Pet-Sitter Available
Many local references, long/short-term. Employed in A2. (734) 604–1255.

Abandon your search and let's not be sexist—call **Pete the Dustman** for your housecleaning chores. Bonded and insured. 677–2125.

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Garden design, installation, maintenance
(734) 417–8722

Retired looking for part-time work as a courier for drop-off/pick-up, home health aide, light cleaning. (734) 487–3959.

Beautiful custom-made slipcovers & window treatments. 30%–35% off thru August.
Michigan's Mom, (734) 913–8131.

Will assist elderly with personal care. Light housekeeping, companionship, errands. Contact Cathy at Helping Hands, 485–1484.

NEED A PAINTER? First in quality, call Bob days or eves. 10% off with ad. (734) 668–0417. Insured.

Interior/exterior painting, deck cleaning. Good references. Free estimate. Jose, 975–9919.

★ PURRFECTION PETSITTING ★
bonded/insured/caring. Susan, 662–5263.

House Sitter. Plants/pets/kids/etc. Experienced. (734) 369–2573/(310) 562–7991.

★ DECK MAINTENANCE ★
Power Washing, Waterproofing, Staining
(734) 276–7464

★ Home Heroes, LLC ★
Repairs, renovations, and more!
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classifieds

English Gardener, RHS Qualified, 10 years' Michigan experience. Design, install, maintain, specialty projects. Tel. 369–2788.

★A2 Pet Solutions★ pet-sitting bonded/insured www.a2pet.com. Scott, 678–4771.

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Professional Handyman Plus—Is something broken or not working right? Does it bother you? Caring, patient, personalized service. Licensed & insured. Degreed engineer. Call Rob, **368–0114.** Since 1995.

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Expert planting, landscaping, mulching, pruning, maintenance, consultation. Golden Trowel Award. Marian Stolar, 761–7384.

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Dependable, trustworthy person to do your housecleaning. (734) 461–9569.

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TRC HAULING, 665–6895.

Lawn Mowing/Maintenance. Natural, organic weed/insect control. Spring cleanup. Haynes Home Services, (734) 428–1247.

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Quality outdoor wooden creations
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Candid wedding photography tailored to your needs. No set packages. You get prints & negatives. Cheri Smith, (734) 475–5855.

wanted

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Volunteers!
Beginning September 21, the University of Michigan Museum of Art will be the exclusive venue for the *Romanovs Collect: European Art from the Hermitage.* Over 140 exceptional works of fine and decorative arts will be on display through November 23, 2003. Volunteers are now being recruited to assist with greeting and ticket taking. If your schedule permits a weekly 2-hour shift and you enjoy the art world and people who love art, please contact Debbie Swartz at 647–0522 or e-mail dgswartz@umich.edu for a volunteer application.

TREE TOWN CHOIR needs new members to sing with them. Rehearsals begin in the fall, no auditions, both men and women needed. For info, call Sandy, (734) 747–8490.

AAUW seeks used books for its fall used book sale. Drop-offs are accepted 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays through August 30 at 214 E. Michigan Ave., between River and Park Streets, Ypsilanti. No magazines, textbooks, *Reader's Digest* condensed books, or books from other sales. For more info or to arrange home pickup, (734) 973–6287.

Male or female models for Lifecast. Weightlifter build, $50–$75 per hour. (734) 747–6307.

real estate

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HORSE LOVERS—60 acres, heavily wooded, house, barn. (734) 675–2152.

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Observer Classifieds Form

SEPTEMBER DEADLINE
AUGUST 11

Mail, fax, or bring form to: Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Fax: (734) 769-3375, E-mail: classifieds@arborweb.com
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NUMBER OF LINES _____
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X # OF MONTHS _____
TOTAL $ _____

CHECK APPROPRIATE CLASSIFIEDS CATEGORY

- ❑ EMPLOYMENT
- ❑ ENTERTAINMENT
- ❑ LESSONS & WORKSHOPS
- ❑ FOR SALE
- ❑ SERVICES—BUSINESS
- ❑ SERVICES—HEALTH
- ❑ SERVICES—HOME
- ❑ SERVICES—PHOTOGRAPHY
- ❑ SERVICES—GENERAL
- ❑ WANTED
- ❑ GENERAL PERSONALS
- ❑ REAL ESTATE FOR RENT
- ❑ REAL ESTATE FOR SALE BY OWNER
- ❑ REAL ESTATE FOR SALE—HOMES
- ❑ REAL ESTATE FOR SALE—CONDOS
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- ❑ REAL ESTATE FOR SALE—COMMERCIAL
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RATES & GUIDELINES

- $7.00 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion. 2 line minimum.
- Each letter, punctuation mark, and word space counts as a box. Capital letters use two boxes.
- Average 39 characters per line.
- Use only standard abbreviations.
- Move word to the next line if it does not fit completely at the end of a line.
- If bold/centered text is desired, please indicate.
- Ads will run in the next open issue.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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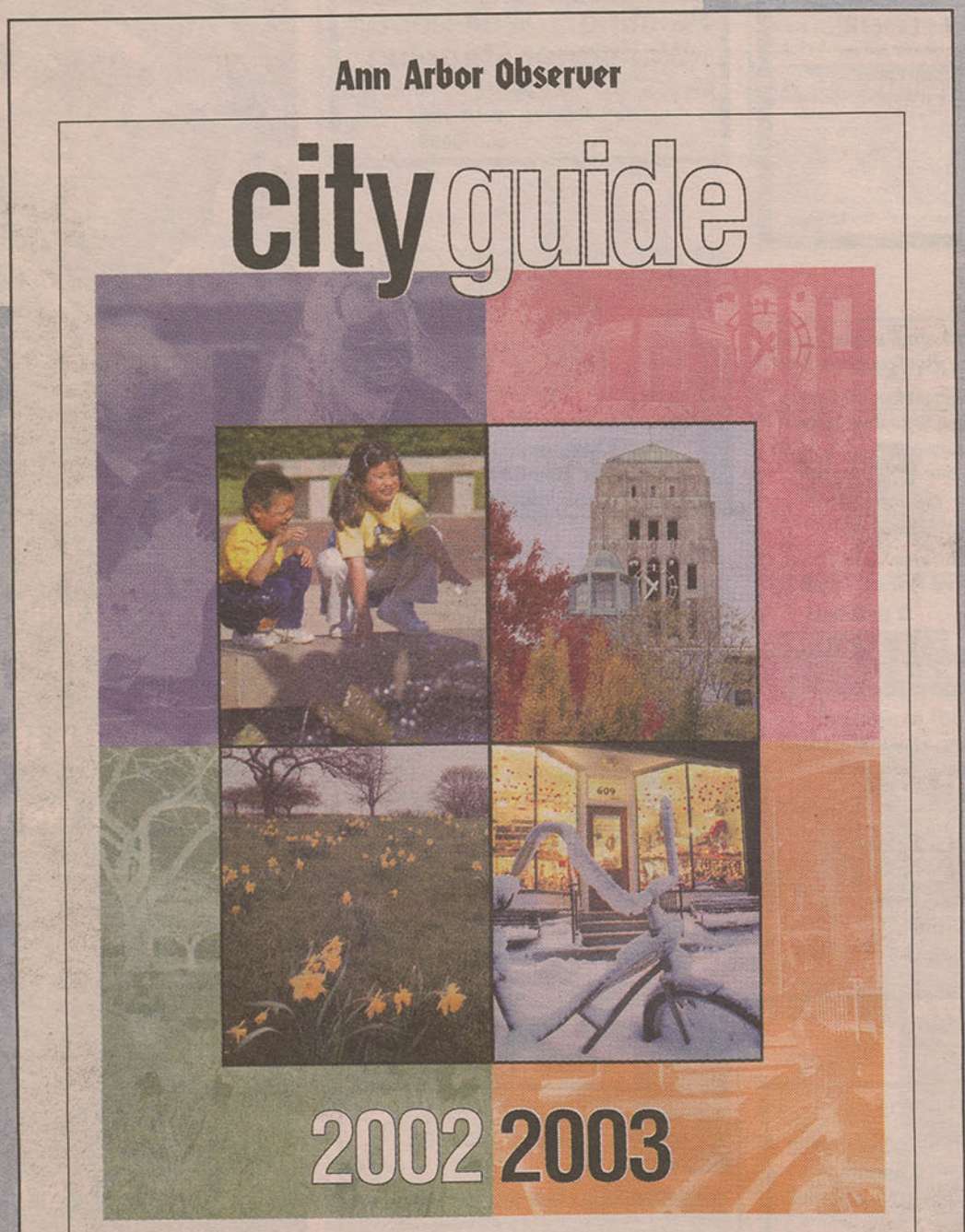

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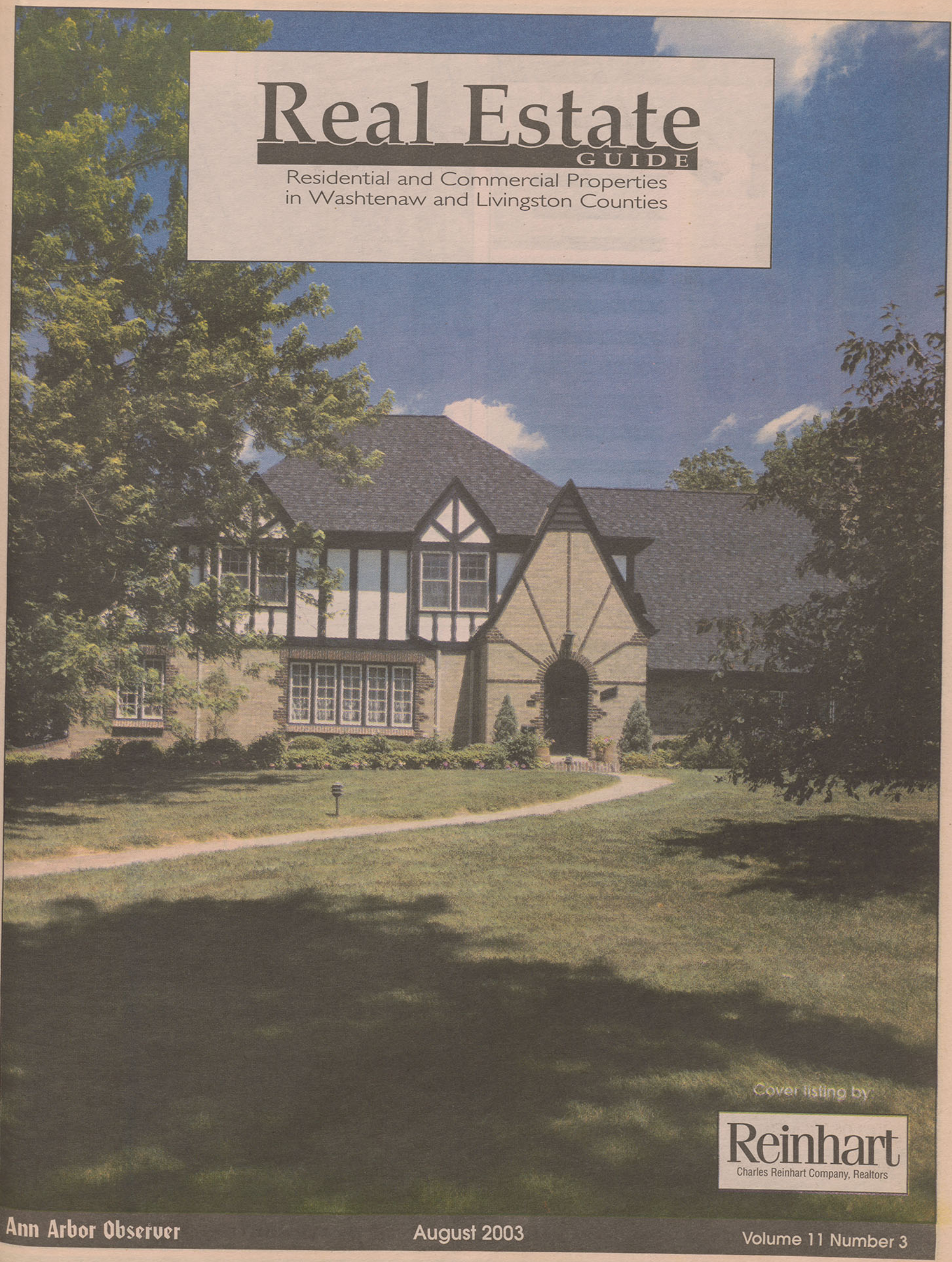

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Ann Arbor Observer August 2003 Volume 11 Number 3

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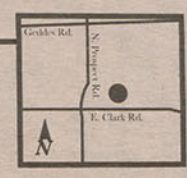

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Real Estate GUIDE

Residential and Commercial Properties in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

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On the Cover: This stately one-of-a-kind Tudor home is completely updated and located on a gorgeous lot in Ann Arbor Hills. Its many amenities include 5 bedrooms, 3½ baths, study, family room, and 2 fireplaces. $895,000. Charles Reinhart Company Realtors. (734) 665–0300.
Cover photo by J. Adrian Wylie

Advertisers

Ann Arbor Observer....78, 87
Autumn Woods....78
BRG Custom Homes....88
Martin Bouma....79
Elizabeth Brien....83
Cambridge Condominiums....87
Matt Dejanovich—Real Estate One....81
Felice Fergel....84
FieldStone Village....83
Linda Forster....78
Huron Valley Financial....86
Landau Custom Homes....78
Norfolk Development....87
Pointe at Island Lake....83
Real Estate One....80
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors....82
RE/MAX Community Associates....84
Republic Bank....84
Village Cooperative Homes....83
Real Estate Map....85

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THE WATERWAYS! Outstanding, custom home located on a quiet cul-de-sac in this prestigious sub. 3,211 sq. ft. with 5 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Basement with finished rec room. Huge master bedroom suite. French doors from the family room open to a screened porch that overlooks a pond and nature area. Saline Schools. $489,900.

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EAST HORIZONS! Stately home on an expansive, cul-de-sac lot located near the Saline Rec center, the library, and schools. 2,976 sq. ft. with 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Beautiful, new hardwood floors throughout the entire first floor. Family room has a fireplace with a tile surround and is open to the breakfast nook and kitchen. $419,900.

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COUNTRY FRENCH ESTATES! Stunning 2-story decorated like a model with 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Huge kitchen with upgraded cabinets, stainless steel appliances, and a center island. Vaulted great room with transom windows and a cozy fireplace. Master suite has a sitting area and a private bath with a garden tub. $369,900.

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RENOVATED FARMHOUSE! Beautifully redone farmhouse situated on 1.8 acres in Saline. Very open interior with 2,818 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms and 3 baths. New cherry kitchen and baths. Hardwood floors throughout with new hickory and cherry on the second level. Large deck wraps around the home and has an adjoining stone patio. $329,900.

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CLUBVIEW SUB! Charming cape cod that looks out over Washtenaw Country Club's golf course. Spacious home with 2,908 sq. ft. Living room has a marble fireplace and an adjacent sunroom. Large garage has an expansive loft/recreation room. Vaulted master suite with a jacuzzi and a balcony style deck. Hardwood floors and new carpet. $319,900.

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HURON FARMS! Immaculate 'Devonshire' model located in a popular Dexter sub. Just built in 2001, this home features 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and a finished basement with 10' ceilings. Great room with wood burning fireplace. Kitchen has white Merillat cabinets and a Mosaic tile backsplash. Vaulted master bedroom suite. $247,900.

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NEED CAR & RV STORAGE? Then this is the perfect home for you! Enjoy peaceful country living in this secluded A-frame on 3.83 rolling acres. Five car garage with RV storage, plus a huge pole barn. Large deck and swimming pool. $228,000.

NORMAL PARK! Ypsilanti's best kept secret! Located in a great neighborhood across from the municipal park and pool. Open floor plan with 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Vaulted ceilings and skylights. Living room has a wood burning fireplace. $179,900.

GEDDES LAKE! Townhouse style units with different floor plans to choose from. All models feature a private patio, a 1 car attached garage, and pond or wooded views. Community has an in-ground pool and tennis courts. $131,900 - $159,900.

CONDOMINIUMS! Available in Heatherwood and Weatherstone complexes. Spacious models with 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. Many floor plans available, all with covered decks and 1 car, detached garages. Clubhouse and in-ground pool. $159,900 - $172,500.

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SPOTLESS RANCH, quality built in 1998 on almost 1 acre. Three bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood, 2,285 sq. ft., outbuilding, easy access for commuters. $273,000. Call 800-216-1995 x1402 for 24-hr recorded info or **Tom Stachler, 662-8600 x357.** (BE235775)

THE NEXT BEST THING to Barton Hills. Rare secluded 2-story with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths on Riverbend. Custom-built cozy home with lots of class. Many amenities you'll surely love! $699,900. **DeFord Team, 645-3060 / 662-8600.** (RI235961)

EXTREMELY WELL-MAINTAINED, neutral decor, cherry cabinets, many updates. Open and spacious feeling with lovely backyard and private view. 1,344 sq. ft. plus basement. $179,900. **Lee Russell, 662-8600 ext. 426.** (GR236351)

IMMACUALTE 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath house located on 1.5 acres on exclusive Travis Pointe golf course. Features wine cellar, martini/sun room, brilliant lower level. Lovely kitchen. $1,100,000. **Zachary Mintzias, 777-3687 / 662-8600.** (TI234983)

RANCH home, former model. Open floor plan. Hardwood floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Close to all amenities. Pittsfield taxes. Priced correctly. Don't wait, call today. $242,500. **Jean Crandell, 395-8567 / 662-8600.** (CR236892)

DON'T MISS your chance to own in Chapel Hill. Three-bedroom end-unit backs up to quiet green common areas, not close to the expressway! Come visit today! $172,500. **Amy Griffith, 741-8852 / 662-8600.** (BU235585)

TOTALLY WOODED BUILDING SITE in Ann Arbor. Premier neighborhood on the West side. Walkout view of protected forest. Home to be built by Harris Homes. Lot 13. $189,900. **Rick Jarzembowski, 645-3634 / 662-8600.** (NE231282)

CHELSEA RIDGE Sub. Four bedrooms, study, great room. Many upgrades. Don't wait for new construction. $359,900. For photos, map and info., go to www.GregJohnsonRealEstate.com. **Greg Johnson, 662-8600 / 646-5957.** (AU236570)

FANTASTIC HOME with Baseline Lake Access! Three-bedroom, 2.5-bath home has been tastefully updated and is ready to move into. $289,900. **Jim Kuhagen, 651-8848 / 662-8600.** (DU235783)

CLOSE TO CAMPUS - wonderful 2-bedroom, 2-bath with new brick and vinyl, windows, roof, C/A, hardwood and ceramic floors. Offered at $294,900. **Jim Kuhagen, 651-8848 / 662-8600.** (DE230341)

IMMACULATE - Four-bedroom, 4.5-bath home in Newport Creek Subdivision with all the upgrades you would expect. Finished lower level, huge deck and patio. $799,900. Off Newport between maple & M-14. **Rick Jarzembowski, 645-3634 / 662-8600.** (NE236139)

ASHFORD VILLAGE 2-story colonial with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1,673 sq. ft., with fireplace, large deck. Well-maintained. Great home and great neighborhood. Ann Arbor schools. $239,900. **DeFord Team, 645-3060 / 662-8600.** (SU236144)

CONDO IS BEST of both worlds - trees out your window yet walking distance to great shopping, restaurants, bus line, schools. Huge rooms, fabulous clubhouse with great facilities. $114,750. **Gail Sinelli, 662-8600.** (MA236924)

WOW! Desirable Huron Farms colonial with tons of upgrades. Two-story foyer, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, finished basement with bath, study, wet bar. Over 2,000 sq. ft., C/A, sprinklers. $289,800. **Gail Sinelli, 320-0172 / 662-8600.** (LA23648)

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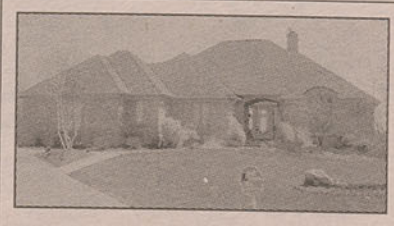
NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – This gracious Landau-built home in Towsley Farms is a premier residence. The two-acre wooded site on a cul-de-sac provides privacy and beautiful views. The interior offers stunning spaces with only the finest materials throughout. $1,495,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GLENNBOROUGH. Harris Homes presents this outstanding 4-bedroom, 3-bath home on a spectacular walkout site in Glennborough. Perfect traditional design with 2-story foyer, den, family room with 11' ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and prof. appliances, and dream master suite. $829,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476–7100.**

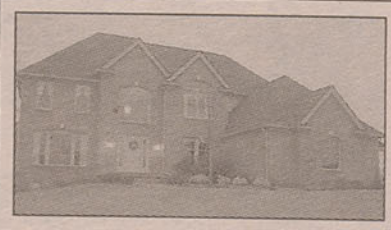


STONEBRIDGE – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath ranch. Gorgeous inside and out with beautiful views of stream and open space from the extensive deck and patios. Features high ceilings, oversized kitchen with granite, sun room, skylights, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $669,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE. Custom-built 4-bedroom, 4-bath home on a gorgeous wooded lot backing to common area. Upgrades throughout with spacious deck and patio, 4-car garage, Corian kitchen, tons of windows, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $629,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476–7100.**

NEW LISTING – LAKE FOREST – Gorgeous custom-built waterfront home in one of the area's premier neighborhoods. Enjoy beautiful sunsets from the oversized deck overlooking the lake. Incredible features with cherry kitchen, hardwood floor, custom trim, and finished walkout basement. $622,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich 476-7100.**

NORTHEAST ANN ARBOR – Spectacular 4-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built ranch with separate living suite perfect for extended family. This home has full brick exterior, gorgeous landscaping, two huge decks, custom trim, extensive upgrades, and finished walkout basement. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE - The model home for Bayberry Construction in The Arboretum is now available. Spectacular professionally decorated 4-bedroom, 2½-bath, colonial features custom maple kitchen with Corian counters, 2-story foyer, and expansive master suite with sitting area. $542,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.** (AM-229228)

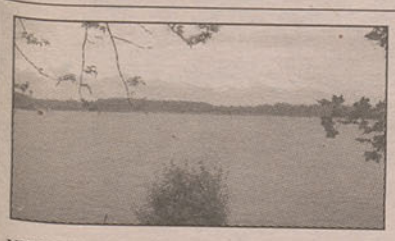
SALINE—Spectacular home under construction in the Arboretum by Bayberry. This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home is a real winner with 2-story great room, first-floor master suite, 3-car garage, view out basement, and loaded with quality features. $540,206. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476–7100.** (AM–222494)

CHELSEA - This is one of the finest homes you will find. Spacious colonial on a private country cul-de-sac that is loaded with features. Great floor plan with large rooms, quality features, and finished basement plus attached indoor pool that is just spectacular. You will love it!! $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE—Bayberry Construction presents their most popular floor plan in Sha Estates. This design features 2-story foyer, den, open floor plan, open kitchen with maple cabinets, large family room, oversized master suite with sitting area, 3-car garage, and walkout basement. $487,427. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476–7100.** (VI-219034)

SALINE—Bayberry Construction is now the builder of The Arboretum. This home features 4-bedroom, 2½-bath with 2-story foyer, study, maple kitchen with Corian counters open to family room with 10' ceiling, huge master suite with sitting area, and 3-car garage. Landscaping included. $483,166. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476–7100.** (216031)

STONEBRIDGE – Gorgeous former model home with panoramic views of the #3 hole at Stonebridge. This detached 3-bedroom, 2½-bath condo has expansive deck with hot tub, screened porch, cherry kitchen, great room, and first floor master suite. $419,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.** (ST-229328)



NEW LISTING – DEXTER – Lakefront handyman special on Little Portage Lake. Gorgeous views with water on two sides from this large ranch in need of updating and repair. Your vision can make this a wonderful lakefront getaway. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom built ranch has the most beautiful views. Located in Silo Ridge, this home has been dramatically expanded and updated. Family room has vaulted ceiling, hand made maple kitchen cabinets, screened porch, and putting green. $379,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTNG – BRIGHTON – Custom-built 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on a wooded walkout site. This colonial style has all the features you've been looking for with 2½-car garage, walkout basement, large kitchen that opens to family room, hardwood floors, and oversized bonus room. $379,999. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – FOXFIRE – Great 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath home on a quiet private cul-de-sac lot backing to a protected forest. Wonderful design with first-floor study, kitchen opens to family room with vaulted ceiling, large master suite, and finished walkout basement. This is a wonderful home. $379,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE—The first offering in Sandhill Estates, Grass Lake's newest sub. Design has first-floor master suite, 2-story great room, 3-car garage, on half-acre lot. Upgraded with white kitchen, hardwood floors, crown molding, and more. $369,900. Two additional homes available $262,169 and $283,677. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476–7100.**

YPSILANTI TWP – This 3-bedroom, 3-bath house on a peaceful country acre is as neat and clean as you will find. Exceptional design and detail in this custom-built home with vaulted ceilings, two kitchens, oversized bedrooms, and perfect condition inside and out. Lincoln Schools. $319,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PINCKNEY – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch condo on the golf course in Whispering Pines. This unit is loaded with upgrades highlighted by the custom kitchen with granite counter tops. Perfect lifestyle and living in one of the most gorgeous settings you will find. $314,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LINCOLN SCHOOLS – Super sharp 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial backing to a beautiful pond in Green Farms. You'll love the upgrades in this custom built home with crown molding, white cabinets, large deck, and partially finished basement. $255,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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Ann Arbor, Spectacular new 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath, finished walkout and top-line amenities. 5.17 acres wooded and landscaped. Packed with richness. Still time to customize. $1,150,000. Julie Picknell 429-9449, eves 734-395-8383. #228913

Ann Arbor, Quality Arts and Crafts cottage, 3200 sq.ft., 36 foot ceilings, 3-4 bedrooms, loft, bonus room, 3 full baths, cherry, granite, stainless kitchen. On 2.15 acres. $619,900. Sherry Grammatico 971-6070, eves 604-0367. #236314

Brooklyn, 67 Acres. 8500 sq.ft. log home built in '93. 4 bedroom, 6.5 bath, separate suite above 5-car garage. 5 outbuildings, dog kennel, caretaker house, 2,000 foot lake-frontage. $3,999,000. Lisa Stelter 665-0300, eves 669-5959. #225626

Pinckney, Wonderful 3 bedroom, 4 bath home with lake access. All quality with many custom built-ins. Fantastic master suite, formal dining, loft library, 2 studies. More! $474,000. Marjorie Bolgos 747-7777, eves 998-1138. #235554

Ann Arbor, Historic Fielding Yost home, AA landmark! This Georgian Colonial sits on highest point in Ann Arbor. Gardens and privacy envelope 5 bedroom, 3 full and 3 half bath home. $1,500,000. Kaye Petersen 665-0300, eves 995-4342. #235537

Ann Arbor, Charming 1941, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath on spectacular lot. Hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen with granite, wonderful screened porch. Near hospital/freeways. $695,000. Nancy Clark 971-6070, eves 604-1779.

Chelsea, On Cavanaugh Lake! Renovated lakefront home has sensational views! 4 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, new cherry and granite kitchen, new appliances. Fantastic landscaping! $1,200,000. Fran Jones 971-6070, eves 994-6505. #235744

Saline, Spacious brick home on 1 plus acre. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, custom kitchen, 1st floor master, finished bonus room. Walkout, 3 plus car garage. Gorgeous deck, patio. $569,000. Alicia Pichan 971-6070, eves 330-8839. #234461

Ann Arbor, Contemporary architect design with commanding view of river. Maple floors, three, 2-way fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, 1600 sq.ft. master suite, 4-car garage. Spectacular! $2,500,000. Rosemary Blackman 665-0300, eves 429-2372. #229655

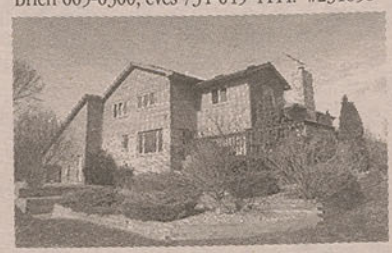
Ann Arbor, Breathtaking views overlooking treetops, Botanical gardens and sunsets. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch with finished walkout. Wood floor, screened porch and more. $719,000. Nicki Noel 747-7777, eves 544-5919. #236180

Dexter, 1166 Blue Heron. Custom home on 10 plus acres. Gourmet kitchen with Viking and granite, indoor pool, 4-season room, heated garage and outbuilding. Access to Wildwood Lk. $1,100,000. Elizabeth Brien 665-0300, eves 734-645-4444. #231858

Saline, Custom contemporary on 1.3 acres near nature preserve. Over 3800 sq.ft. plus walkout. Chef's kitchen, great room w/HDTV home theater. Professionally landscaped, 3 car garage. $649,900. Barry Kenyon 429-9449, eves 313-813-0830. #232988

Ann Arbor, Impressive, immaculate 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Custom staircase, molding, attention to detail. Gorgeous landscaping, awning, huge deck. $479,900. Rhonda Cloutier 971-6070, eves 669-5902. #233343

Ann Arbor, Authentic Georgian brick colonial, 5 bedroom, 3.1 bath on 2 acres. Huge cherry kitchen, wood floors, 3 fireplaces and finished lower level. Rear pillared porch with outdoor views. $875,000. Sheila Shulman 747-7777, eves 996-3823. #235995



Dexter, 2301 N. Zeeb. Striking, 6900 sq.ft. home. 7 wooded acres. Master w/steam shower. Maple floors, 5 bedroom, 7 bath, study, walkout family room with bar, home theater. $995,000. Elizabeth Brien 665-0300, eves 734-645-4444. #234046

Saline, Spectacular 5 bedroom, 5 bath estate on 11.7 acres of woods and rolling pastures. First floor master, finished walkout and beautiful in-ground pool. Must see! $669,900. Julie Picknell 429-9449, eves 734-395-8383. #236757

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212 W. William, Ann Arbor
Elegant, traditional townhouse. Luxurious finishes, cherry floors, cabinets, granite, 2 bedroom suites, loft study/bedroom, & 3.5 bath. 2-car. $489,900. #234709

3641 Barry Knoll Dr., Ann Arbor
Impeccable, professionally decorated home with many upgrades. Wood floors, kitchen with Corian and new stainless steel appliances. Private, landscaped backyard with large deck. $399,900.

150 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor
6 luxurious condos remain in Fifth Ave. Bldg. 2 bedrooms, 2 or 2.5 baths, granite, hardwood, other exceptional finishes. Parking. Secure elevator access. To be built. $690,000...1,490,000. #234711

2131 Melrose, Ann Arbor
One-of-a-kind! Exceptional and stately brick tudor on 2/3 wooded acre in Ann Arbor Hills. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, family room, study, sunroom. $895,000. #232338

880 Ridge, Chelsea
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SWEET HOME—Sharp, 1,800 sq. ft., 4 bed-room, 2 bath, 2-story, colonial. Super-sized heated garage on sprawling corner lot. $224,900. **DAVID WHITE, 734-368-5050 www.DavidSellsMichigan.com** (237032)

VIRGINIA PARK—Nice 2-story in the heart of Ann Arbor's west side. 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, updated kitchen, brick patio, third floor walk-up to storage attic. $285,900. **DOUG WEBB, 734-769-6742, doughomes@aol.com** (234947)

COUNTRY CONTEMPORARY—Nestled into 1.6 wooded acres on a private, hillside Scio Township cul-de-sac. Ann Arbor Schools, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3-car garage and a 28'x24' heated workshop! Includes 31'x22' great room and 22'x29' family room for entertaining, and screened porch with hot tub. $479,000. **DAVE DEAN, 734-302-8821 www.thedeanteam.com** (236733)

EXECUTIVE CUSTOM BUILT—3,280 sq. ft., 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home sits in desirable York Woods neighborhood. Easy access to private Sunset Lake. Master Suite with sitting area. All bedrooms have baths. Morning room has 3 walls of windows overlooking lovely manicured lawns. Finished walkout. $497,000. **JUDY WHITFIELD, 734-213-6512 JudyWhitfield@JudyWhitfield.com** (236458)

BEST VIEW IN LOCH ALPINE—Updated 4 bedroom, 2 bath on large site with views of nature and a golf course. Marble tile, hardwood floors, newer mechanicals and more. $289,900 **FELICE FERGEL 734-223-4455, www.FeliceFergel.com** (233494)

FOR THE MOST DISTINCTIVE BUYER! Magnificent Frank Lloyd Wright style, built by renowned M-R Builder, Inc. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bath home overlooks 161' of waterfront on Tims' Lake Preserve. Exquisite features include tumbled marble flooring, custom stained glass, custom maple cabinetry, granite countertops, wet bar, workout room, plus more. $895,000. **THE PEARSALL TEAM, 734-741-1000, www.specializinginresults.com** (235800)

CHARMING 4 BEDROOM—2.5 bath home with 2-story foyer, oak hardwood floors, berber carpet, crown molding & more! A must see! $242,900. **THE PEARSALL TEAM 734-741-1000, www.specializinginresults.com** (236658)

GOLF COURSE SPECIAL!—Newer Cape Cod with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, hardwood and tile floors. Loft area overlooking living room and a 2-story stone fireplace! Enclosed porch with hot tub, full finished basement, sprinkler system, all on 2.5 landscaped areas adjoining the Waterloo Golf Course. $319,900. **PAM WIRPIO, 734-475-0546/517-812-0962, PamelaW@remax.net** (236611)

BEAUTIFUL CLEAN AND FRESH—2 story country colonial on manicured private 2.35 lush acres. Amenities include high-speed satellite connection, 4 generously sized bedrooms, cozy fireplace in family room, open light and bright kitchen with views, finished basement. Access to decks, pool, and long walks off kitchen door wall. $339,900. **DAVID WHITE, 734-368-5050 www.DavidSellsMichigan.com** (237323)

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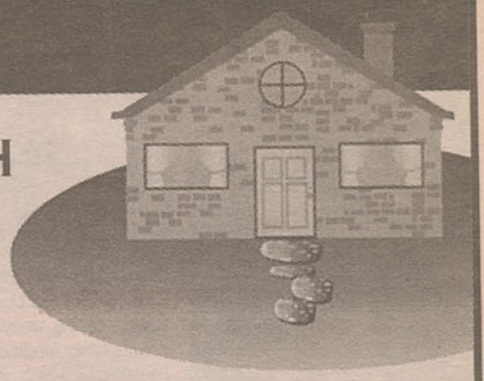

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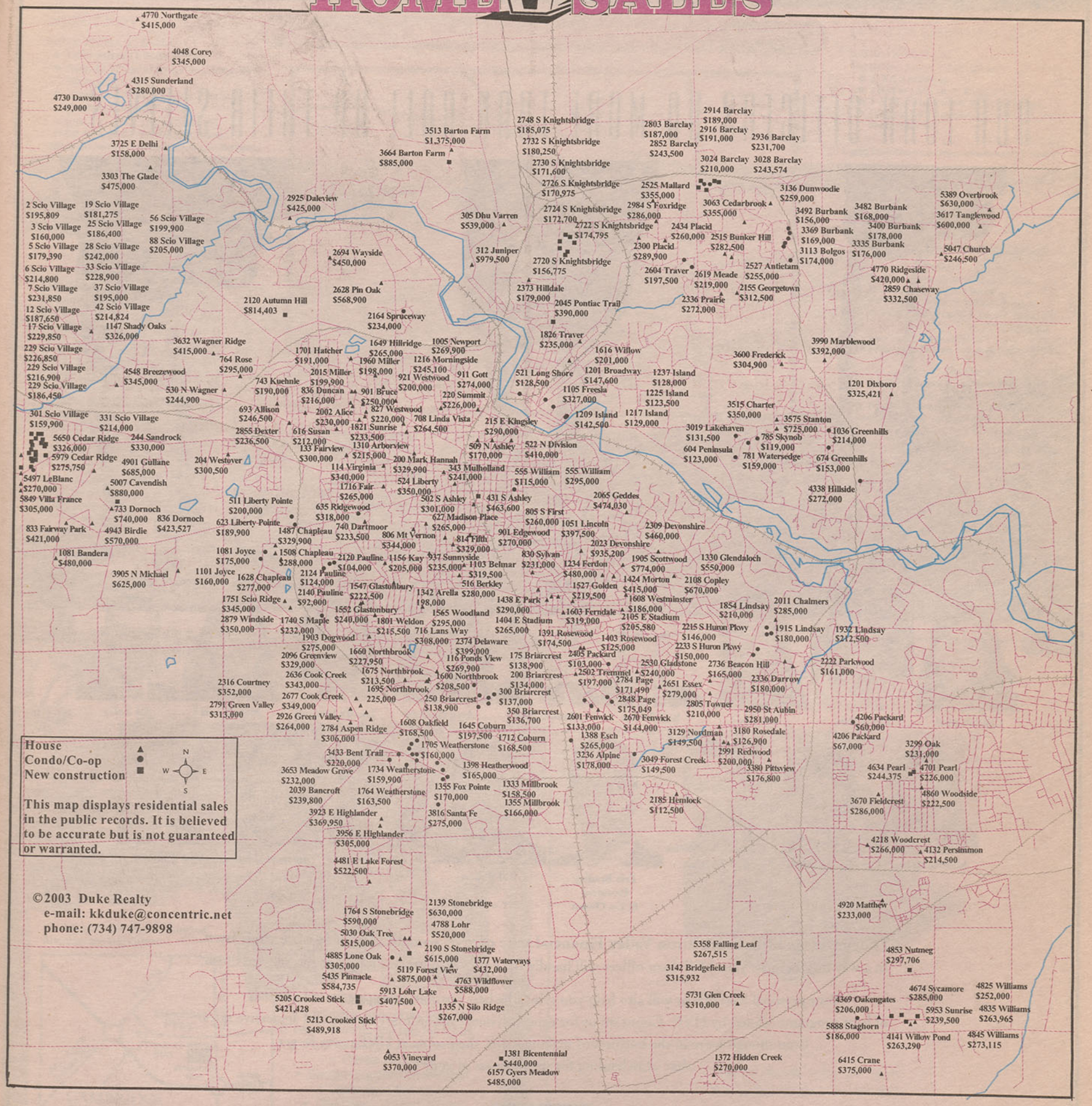
JUNE 2003

HOME SALES



June was the first month in 2003 to break the 300-unit barrier, squeaking past with 301 sales. Last year only August surpassed that mark. Back in 2001, in contrast, all three summer months exceeded 300 sales each.

Builders contributed their fair share to the mix. They pounded out fifty-one sales in June, twenty of them condominiums in Scio Village near Park and Zeeb roads. The Northside Glen–Northside Ridge development near Dhu Varren and Pontiac Trail and Barclay Park off Nixon Road recorded seven condo sales apiece. Another six sales are not shown on the map at all, since Hometown Village continues to report lot prices as the values of its new homes, apparently for tax purposes.

What does it cost to put yourself on the water in the Ann Arbor school district? A pretty penny, it seems. Waterfront homes are rare, and so the price is dear. Waterfront properties also tend to be more spacious than the average home, adding to the final bill. For example, 1081 Bandera in Scio Township's Liberty Hills subdivision included not just a pond but also 3,400 square feet of living space, encompassing five bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms. It all sold for $480,000. Nearby, 3905 North Michael in Saginaw Hills boasted pond frontage and sold for $625,000. The house offered 2,800 square feet, including four bedrooms and four and a half bathrooms.

The priciest waterfront sold this month was on Barton Pond. The house at 312 Juniper in Barton Hills was a bit slimmer than its Scio competition, with four bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms in 2,700 square feet. But it far outstripped both of its bigger rivals in price. It fell just short of reaching seven figures, selling for an impressive $979,500. *—Kevin Duke*

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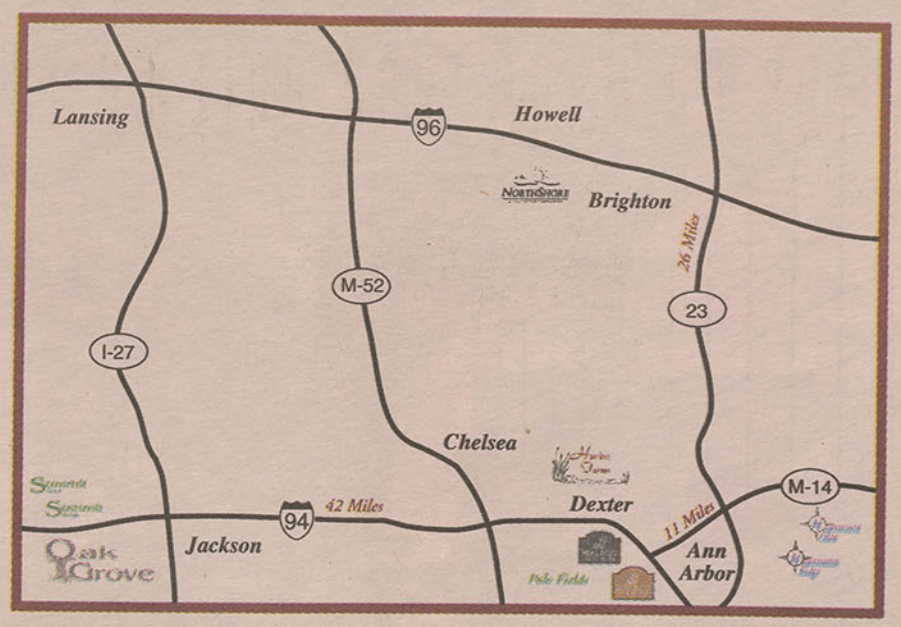

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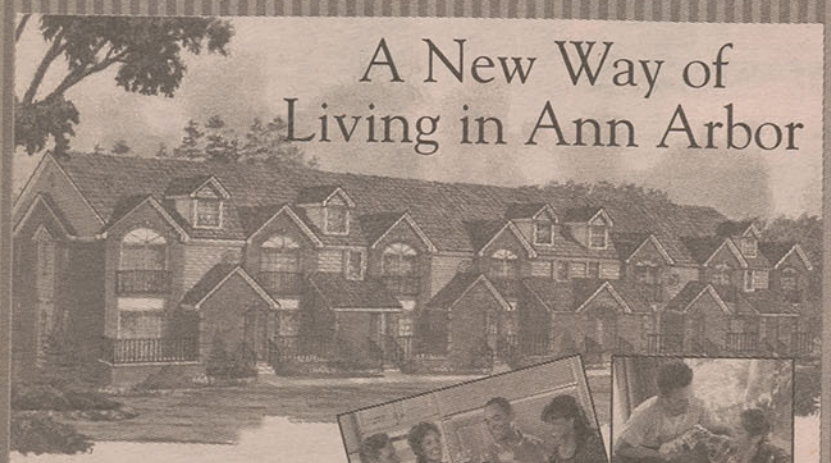

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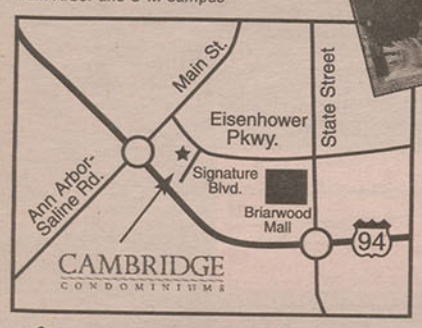

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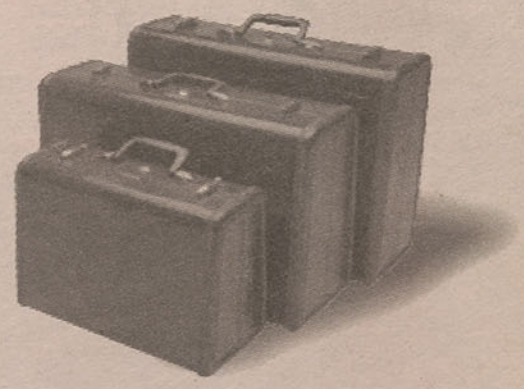

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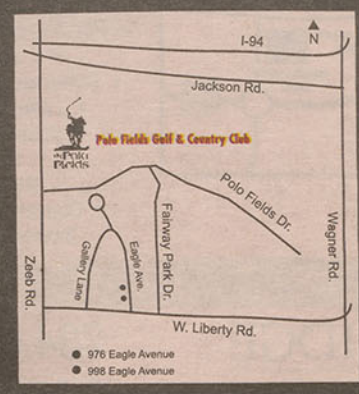

ADVERTISERS INDEX

Abbott's Landscape, Nursery, & Garden Center 28
Ace Barnes Hardware 28
Acme Mercantile 40
American Maids 7
American Spoon 42
Anderson Paint Company 29
Ann Arbor Academy 10
Ann Arbor Adventist Elementary 60
Ann Arbor Antiques Market 48
Ann Arbor Artisan Market 41
Ann Arbor Carpet 55
Ann Arbor Christian School 62
Ann Arbor Consultation Services 62
Ann Arbor Cyclery 69
Ann Arbor District Library 48
Ann Arbor Framing Company 13
Ann Arbor Hills Child Development Center 65
Ann Arbor Institute of Massage Therapy 32
Ann Arbor Observer 76, 78, 87, 90
Ann Arbor Transportation Authority 16
Ann Arbor Vasectomy Clinic 34
Ann Arbor Women's City Club 51
Ann Arbor YMCA 66
Ann Arbor Youth Soccer Association 56
Anti-Telemarking Hotline 66
Arbor Farms Natural Foods Market 43
Arbor Springs Water 53
Arbor Vacuum 91
arborweb 78
Argiero's Italian Restaurant 7
A Christopher Armand Salon 66
Arts in Motion Dance Studio 59
Austin & Warburton jewelers 8
Autumn Woods 78
Ave Maria Gallery 44

BRG Custom Homes 88
Bank of Ann Arbor 25
Bell Tower Hotel 1
Bellanina Day Spa & Gift Boutique 51
Bennett Optometry 4
Big George's Home Appliance Mart 60
Blue Nile restaurant 42
James A. Bond, Ph.D. 49
Martin Bouma, Realtor—Keller Williams Realty 79
Elizabeth Brien, Realtor—Charles Reinhart Company Realtors 83

Cabinet Clinic 91
Cambridge Condominiums 87
Carlson Glass 12
Center for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery 50
Chelsea Retirement Communities 2
Cheveux Salon 66
Christian Montessori School of Ann Arbor 61
City Guide 76
City of Ann Arbor—Transportation 16
Closet Company of Mid Michigan 55
The Common Grill 43
Community Education & Recreation—Ann Arbor Public Schools 18
The Container Warehouse 54
Howard Cooper, auto sales 14, 15
Cottage Inn Catering 39

Dance Classics 62
Dancer's Boutique 58
Daycroft Montessori School 63
Matt Dejanovich—Real Estate One 81
Delux Drapery & Shade 54
Dempsey Insurance 18
Dental Faculty Associates (U-M) 35
Dexter's Pub 39
Dixboro Veterinary Dental & Medical Center 34
Dobson McOmber Insurance 16
DogmaCatmantoo 7
Alden B. Dow Home & Garden 6
Downtown Home & Garden 18
Dragon's Lair Futons & Furnishings 40
Dunning Toyota used cars 66
Dynamic Edge, Inc., computing services 53

The Earle restaurant 38
The Earle Uptown 1
Elizabeth J. Interiors 53
Elizabeth's Bridal Manor 50
Emerson School 58
Enchanted Schoolhouse 52
Esquire Interiors 26
Evans Street Station 36
Eve restaurant 39

Felice Fergel, Associate Broker—RE/MAX Community Associates 84
FieldStone Village Condominium—Sutton Development Co. 83
Flying Sheep Yarns 52
Format Framing 25
Linda Forster, Realtor—Edward Surovell Realtors 78
Foto 1 40
Fresh Seasons Market 26

Gandy Dancer restaurant 36
Georgetown Gifts 7
Glacier Hills Retirement Center 34
Go Like the Wind School 56
Godaiko restaurant 37
Gold Bond Cleaners 15
Great Harvest Bread Company 42
Great Lake Chinese Restaurant 36
Great Land Supermarket 36
Greenhills School 3
Grizzly Peak Brewing Company 38

Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley 18
Hair Spot 59
Hiller's Market 39
Hillside Terrace 30
John Hollowell & Associates 27
Honey Creek Community School 60
Huron River Area Credit Union 19
Huron Valley Financial, Inc., mortgages 86

IHA Associates in Internal Medicine 33
IHA Family Practice 30
It's Just Lunch dating service 5

Jules furniture 26, 27

Sally Kelley Real Estate 91
Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor 57
Knit A Round Yarn Shop 49

Land Architects 14
Landau Custom Homes 78
John Leidy Shop 41
Carolyn Lepard, Realtor 8

MOSA Audiology 33
Mac's Acadian Seafood Shack 37
Materials Unlimited 52
Merkel Home Furnishings ....BC
George Meyer Company, windows & doors 55
Modern Mechanical Heating & Cooling 55

Norfolk Development Corporation 87

Old St. Patrick's Church 44
Oxford Preparatory Courses 59

Pelagos Taverna Greek Restaurant 8
Pewabic Pottery 54
The Pointe at Island Lake 83
Premier Package 90
Purple Rose Theater 49
Putt-Putt Golf & Games 63

Quality 16 Theaters 69

RE/MAX Community Associates 84
Randazzo Dance Studio 57
Real Estate One 80
Real Estate One—Matt Dejanovich 81
Recycle Ann Arbor 25, 69
Reflecting Nature 29
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors 82
Republic Bank 84
Ron's Garage 43
RoseBasket.com, floral design 41
Rudolf Steiner School 10

Saguaro Nursery & Gardens 19
St. Thomas Grade School 61
Schlanderer & Sons, jewelers 18
John Shultz Photography 56
Summers-Knoll School 10
Edward Surovell Realtors ....IFC
Swing City Dance Studio 62

Talking Colors Art School 57
Terrafirma landscape design & building ....IBC
Thredz women's clothing 41
Three Chairs Company 24
Touchstone Cohousing 35
Treasure Mart 8
Trillium Real Estate 28

U-M Museum of Art 44
U-M Nurse Practitioners 32
U-M Preventive Cardiology 30
University Commons 24
University Living 32
University Musical Society 46, 47

Village Cooperative Homes 83

Washtenaw Intermediate School District 58
Washtenaw United Way 30
Washtenaw Veterinary Hospital 19
Welcome Home cleaning service 19
Whitmore Lake Public Schools 65
WideWorld Sports Center 65
Workbench furniture 13

Maria Zaborniak, paramedical esthetician 53
Zingerman's Community of Businesses 20
Zydeco Louisiana Kitchen 36

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Ron's Garage 91
Saguaro Nursery & Gardens 19

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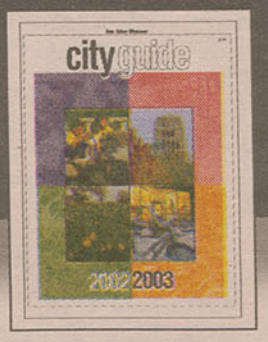

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BACK PAGE

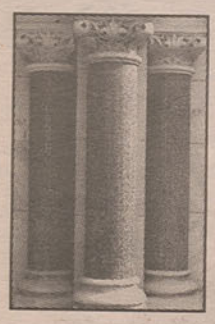
I SPY

by Sally Bjork

Where can you find this dolphin? Cast
Upon a cannon with no blast.
Inscribed to soldiers, unnamed,
Alumni of the war with Spain.

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the riddle above and the photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"The photo is of the pillars on the Kingsley Street entrance of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church," wrote Ann Arborite Judi Taylor in her entry to last month's I Spy. "I've been viewing those pillars for thirty-seven years!" Not only did she, along with her fifteen brothers and sisters, attend St. Thomas Church and School, she and her husband also met and were married there. Another St. Thomas parishioner, Cathy Krasny of Ann Arbor, won our drawing from the eleven correct entries we received for July; her prize is the latest edition of *Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor, Michigan,* by Marjorie Reade and Susan Wineberg.



St. Thomas Parish dates to 1835; construction of the present church began in 1896 under the leadership of Rev. Edward Kelly. Architects Spier and Rohns of Detroit also designed Ann Arbor's Michigan Central depot (now the Gandy Dancer restaurant) and the U-M's Tappan Hall. Local materials were used extensively in the church's construction. The building's historical marker notes that the "granite fieldstone and Bailey bluestone were donated and hauled to the site by parishioners and area farmers."

FAKE AD

by Jay Forstner

Some months we can't help feeling a little bit of extra joy when we draw the winner of our little contest. Much as we try to be objective, we have our favorites, people we just can't help rooting for. Maybe it's someone who faithfully enters month after month. Maybe it's someone who always sends along a kind note with his or her entry. Or maybe it's a friend. Whatever the case, when we see that person's name on the winning entry, our hearts soar.

This month, that wasn't the case. We're sure that Susan Baughn of Ann Arbor, July's winner, is the bee's knees, but the fact is that we don't know her from Adam, or, for that matter, Eve. She may be every bit as good a person as our regular Fake Adders, and chances are she's a better person than most of our friends, but to us, quite frankly, she's just another name.

Still, Baughn earned respect as one of only 145 people who correctly identified the Fake Ad for Golf Universe—featuring metric golf clubs for courses outside the United States—on p. 52 of the July Observer. She's taking her gift certificate to Austin & Warburton jewelers.

To enter the contest for August, identify the Fake Ad by name and page number, and let us know at the address below. To confirm your suspicions, we hide the word *arborweb,* the name of the Observer's website, somewhere in the Fake Ad (in July it was at the bottom of the ad, split between "Arbor" and "Web"). The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Golfing abroad this summer?
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Golf courses around the world–unlike courses here in the United States–have adopted the International (metric) System for all their measurements. Yardages for courses and holes are given in meters (or metres). Not yards. Distance markers are placed at the metric equivalent of traditional English distances. Shouldn't your golf clubs keep up with the times?
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Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–4950. *E-mail:* penny@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Monday, August 11, are eligible for the August drawings.

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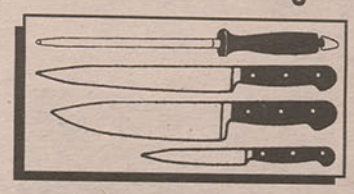

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Annie

Pantalone's Inheritance

Alice in Phantasmagoria

A capsule guide to selected major events in August. See p. **45** *for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings also begin on p.* **45.**

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Blithe Spirit* (Purple Rose Theater Company), every Wed.–Sun. through Aug. 30
- *Suds* (Chelsea Area Players), Aug. 1 & 2
- *Miss Julie* and *The Stronger* (Michigan Classical Repertory Theater), Aug. 1–3
- *The Search for Intelligent Improv in the Universe* (Project Pangaea), Aug. 1–3 & 7–10
- *The Police* (Upside-Down Productions), Aug. 7–10 & 14–17
- *Candy Corn, Christ, and the Convoluted Creation of Golf!* (The Rowan Education Network), Aug. 14–17 & 21–24
- *Pantalone's Inheritance* (Ellipsis Theater Ensemble), Aug. 21, 22, 28, & 29

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Michael Cooney (English), Aug. 1
- Karen Casey (Irish), Aug. 4
- The Krueger Brothers (American folk & bluegrass), Aug. 6
- Beausoleil (Cajun), Aug. 7
- Matt Watroba & Robert Jones (folk & blues), Aug. 8
- Mitch Greenhill & Mayne Smith (folk), Aug. 10
- Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic (Scottish), Aug. 15
- Dorsa (Irish), Aug. 20

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Annie* (Children's Creative Center), Aug. 6–9
- Clonlara School Backyard Carnival, Aug. 15
- Carson & Barnes 5-Ring Circus, Aug. 18

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Riverfolk Music and Arts Festival with bluegrass fiddler Laurie Lewis & others, Aug. 2
- Ann Arbor Ukulele Club Ukathon, Aug. 2
- Ray Benson (country-jazz), Aug. 5
- "Holypalooza" (Christian pop festival), Aug. 6
- Jason Ringenberg (country-rock), Aug. 6
- Milan Bluegrass Festival with the Osborne Brothers, Rhonda Vincent, J. D. Crowe, & others, Aug. 7–9
- Bill Miller (Native American singer-songwriter), Aug. 9
- "Asians in Rock" with 5 Asian American indie bands, Aug. 10
- The Smokin' Joe Kubek Band (blues), Aug. 11
- Adrian Legg (acoustic guitar virtuoso), Aug. 12
- Otis Taylor (blues), Aug. 13
- Andrew Bird (avant pop-jazz), Aug. 14

Theater choices for the dog days include the Children's Creative Center's production of *Annie*, starring Nestle Bund as Sandy, August 6–9. There's also the Ellipsis Theater Ensemble's *Pantalone's Inheritance* August 21, 22, 28, & 29, and the Dreamland Puppet Troupe's *Alice in Phantasmagoria* August 15–17.

- Mustard's Retreat (singer-songwriter duo), Aug. 15
- The Bluehouse (pop-folk), Aug. 16
- Anson Funderburgh & the Rockets (blues), Aug. 16
- Friends of Dicken Wood benefit with George Bedard, Khalid Hanifi, Matt Watroba, & David Barrett, Aug. 21
- Stewart Francke (folk-rock), Aug. 22
- Austin Lounge Lizards (country parody), Aug. 23
- Little Feat (southern rock), Aug. 24
- Colin Stetson (jazz), Aug. 24
- Martha's Trouble and Ralston Bowles (singer-songwriters), Aug. 26
- Karrin Allyson (jazz), Aug. 29 & 30

Comedy & Performance Art

- Comic Dustin Diamond, Aug. 1 & 2
- Second City improv troupe, Aug. 2 & 3
- *Fabula Rasa* (U-M Museum of Art), Aug. 7
- Comic Jeff Brannan, Aug. 8 & 9
- Dreamland Puppet Troupe's *Alice in Phantasmagoria*, Aug. 15–17
- Comic Ken Evans, Aug. 15 & 16
- Comic Martha Kelly, Aug. 22 & 23
- Performance artist Misha Grey's *How to Lose Yourself in Trebuteen Days*, Aug. 22 & 24
- Comic Steven Bills, Aug. 29 & 30

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Dixboro Fair, Aug. 2
- Lughnasadh Festival, Aug. 2
- Spur of the Moment Horse Show, Aug. 3
- Matthaei Botanical Gardens "HerbFest," Aug. 3
- Waterloo Hunt Club Dressage, Aug. 8–10 & 22–24
- Dexter Daze, Aug. 8 & 9
- Yankee Air Museum "Thunder over Michigan," Aug. 9 & 10
- Main Street "Rock 'n' Rollin' Block Party," Aug. 11
- Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Aug. 15–17
- Bromeliad Society Show, Aug. 16 & 17
- Ypsilanti Historic Homes Tour, Aug. 17
- Chelsea Community Fair, Aug. 19–23
- Saline "Picnic in the Park," Aug. 22 & 23
- Saline Pro Rodeo, Aug. 22–24
- Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Show, Aug. 23 & 24
- Michigan Dahlia Association Show, Aug. 30 & 31
- Old St. Pat's Labor Day Weekend Festival, Aug. 30 & 31
- Saline Community Fair, Aug. 31
- Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance "Dancing in the Streets," Aug. 31

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- People's Food Co-op program on "Making Your Own Live-Culture Foods," Aug. 13

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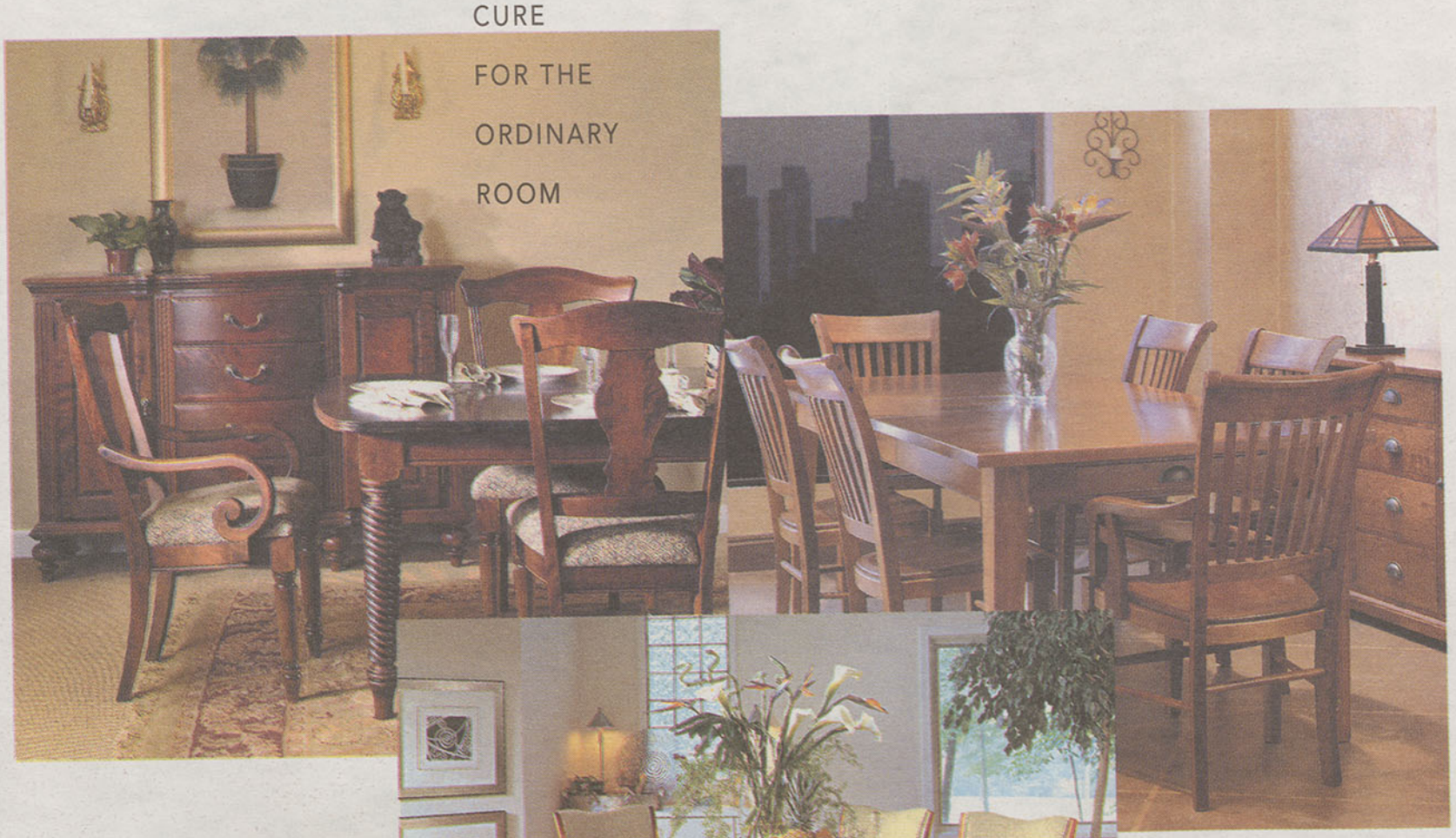

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